FROM THE CREATOR OF LADY MECHANIKA
WRAITHBORN
REDUX
CHEN • BENITEZ
NO.1
FEBRUARY 2016

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There are forces in the world that we don't understand.
Spirits, demons, long forgotten gods.
We can't see them. We can't touch them.
But they can see us... and they hunger.
I am their prey.
YAAAHH!

JUST AS THEY ARE MINE.

HYAAAAHH!

UNGHHH

POWERFUL AND IMMORTAL, THEY RULED THIS WORLD ONCE, LONG, LONG AGO.

WE WORSHIPPED THEM AS GODS AND THEY TREATED US AS SLAVES, INSIGNIFICANT PLAYTHINGS KEPT FOR THEIR AMUSEMENT.

WHOOSH

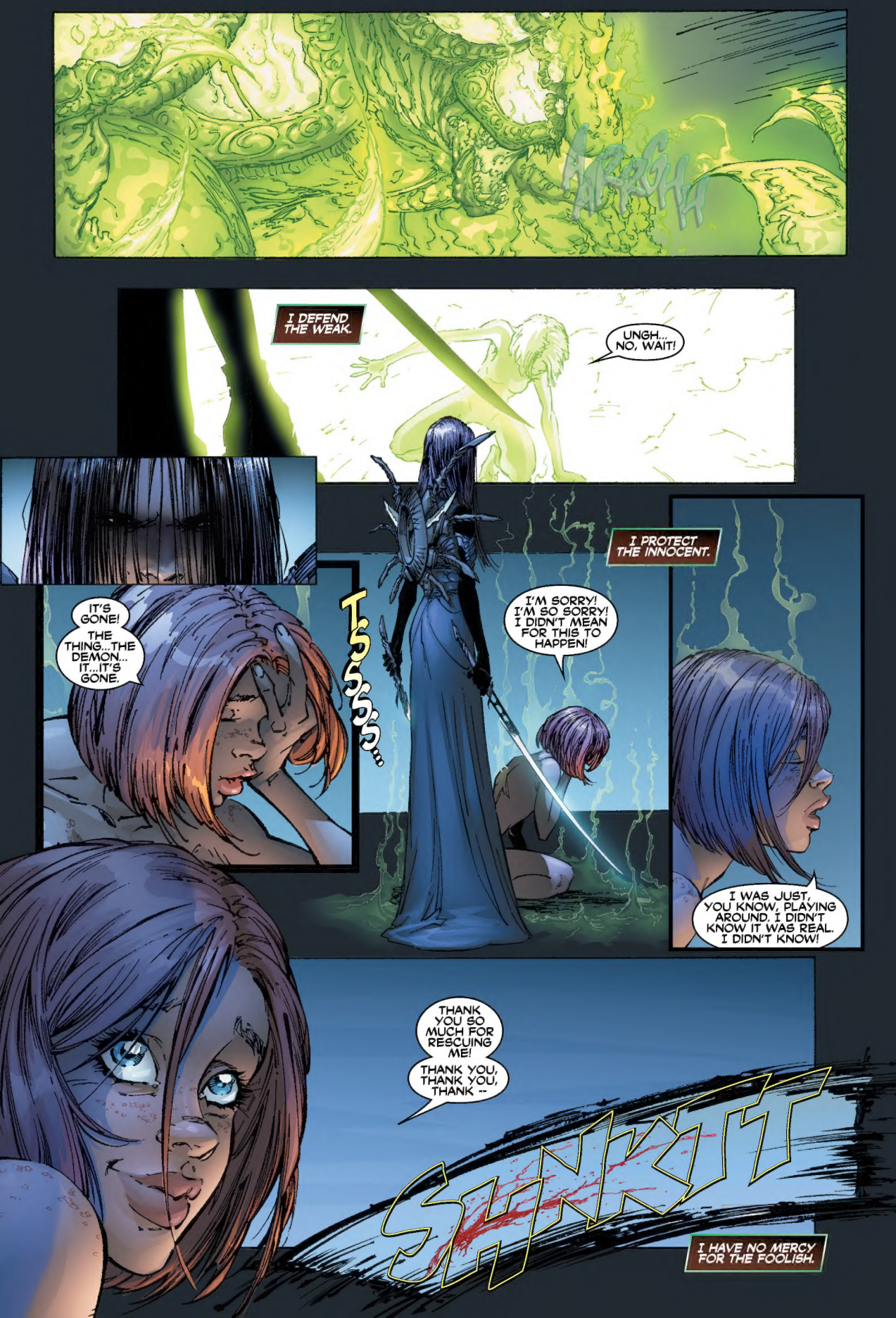
HHSSSSS

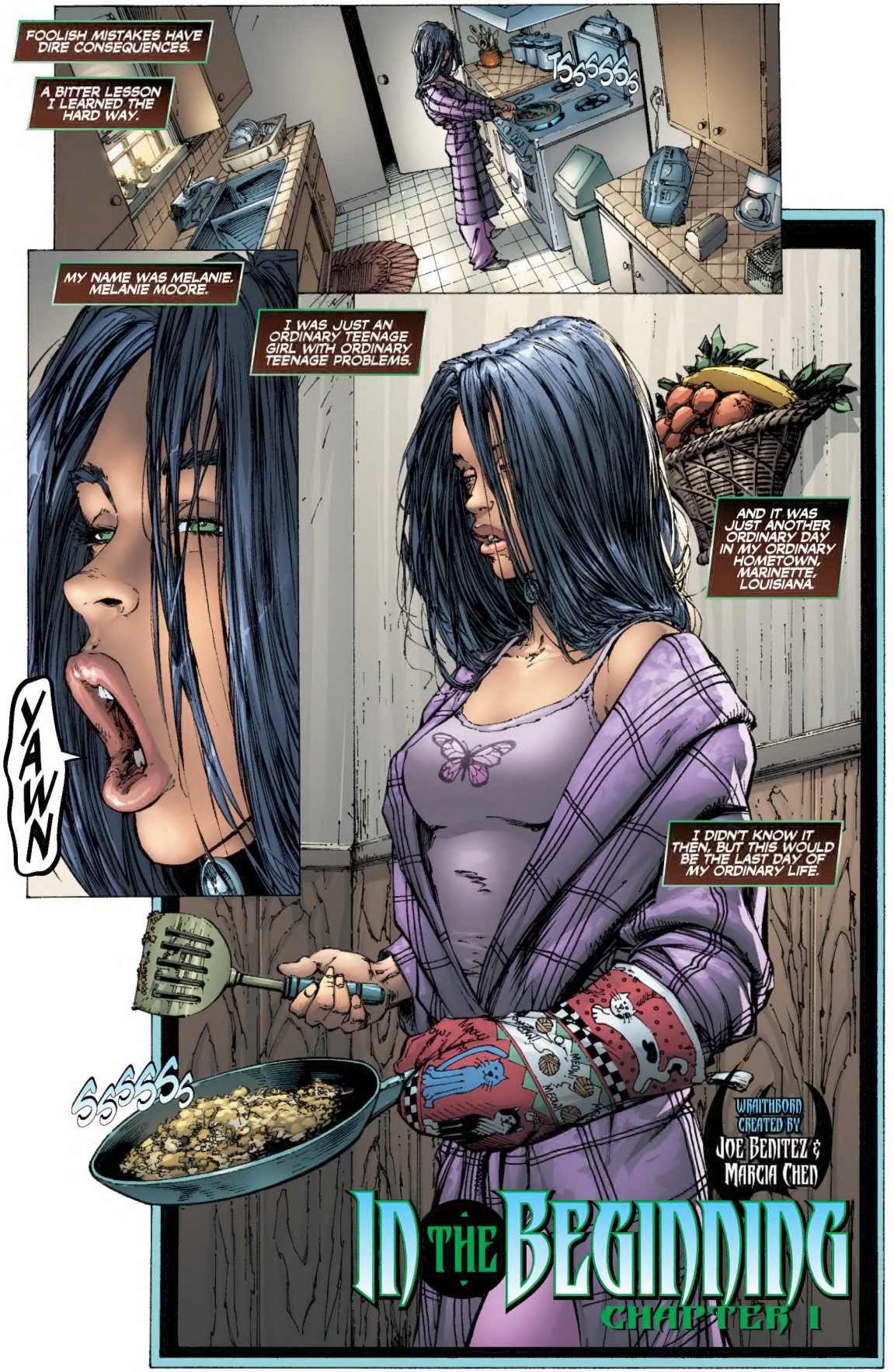
BUT WE WERE NOT INSIGNIFICANT.

SSSNKT
SSSSS!
WE GAINED A POWER THAT COULD BE WIELDED AGAINST THEM--
HRRAAHHH!
--THE POWER I NOW HOLD--
SHNKKK
SHNKKKT
--AND WE USED IT TO DEFEAT THEM.
SSSSSSSHHH
BUT THE IMMORTALS COULD NOT BE DESTROYED.
GRRGRRGGG...
NOT COMPLETELY.

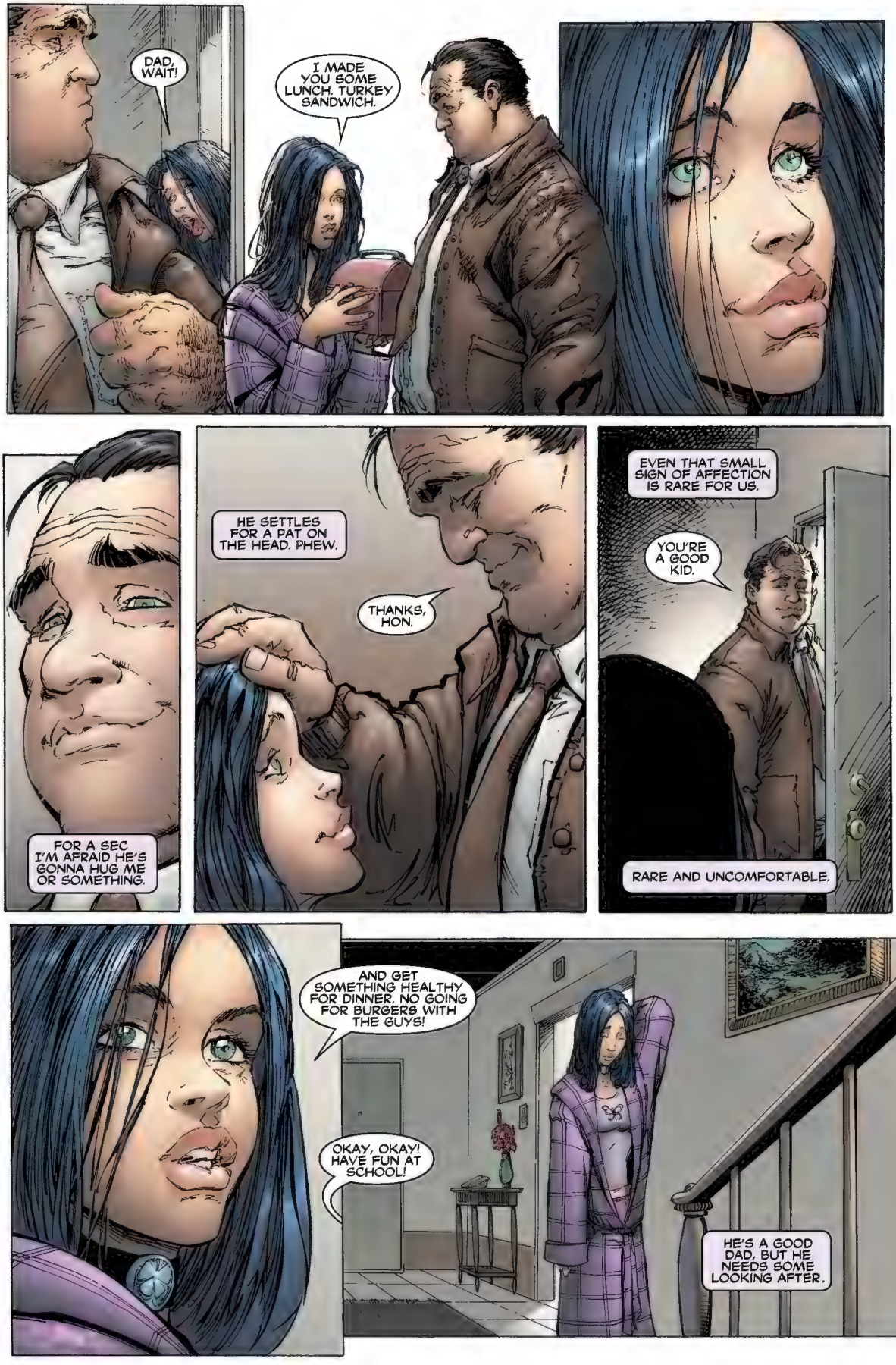
THEY WALK AMONG US STILL, POWERLESS WRAITHS UNABLE TO AFFECT THE MATERIAL WORLD.
HMPH. MINIONS.
KRA-THRUNKK
UNLESS SOMEONE INVITES ONE IN.
WHY WOULD ANYONE LET AN IMMORTAL TAKE CONTROL OF HIS BODY?
INTENTIONAL MALICIOUSNESS OR JUST CARELESS STUPIDITY.
EITHER WAY, I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

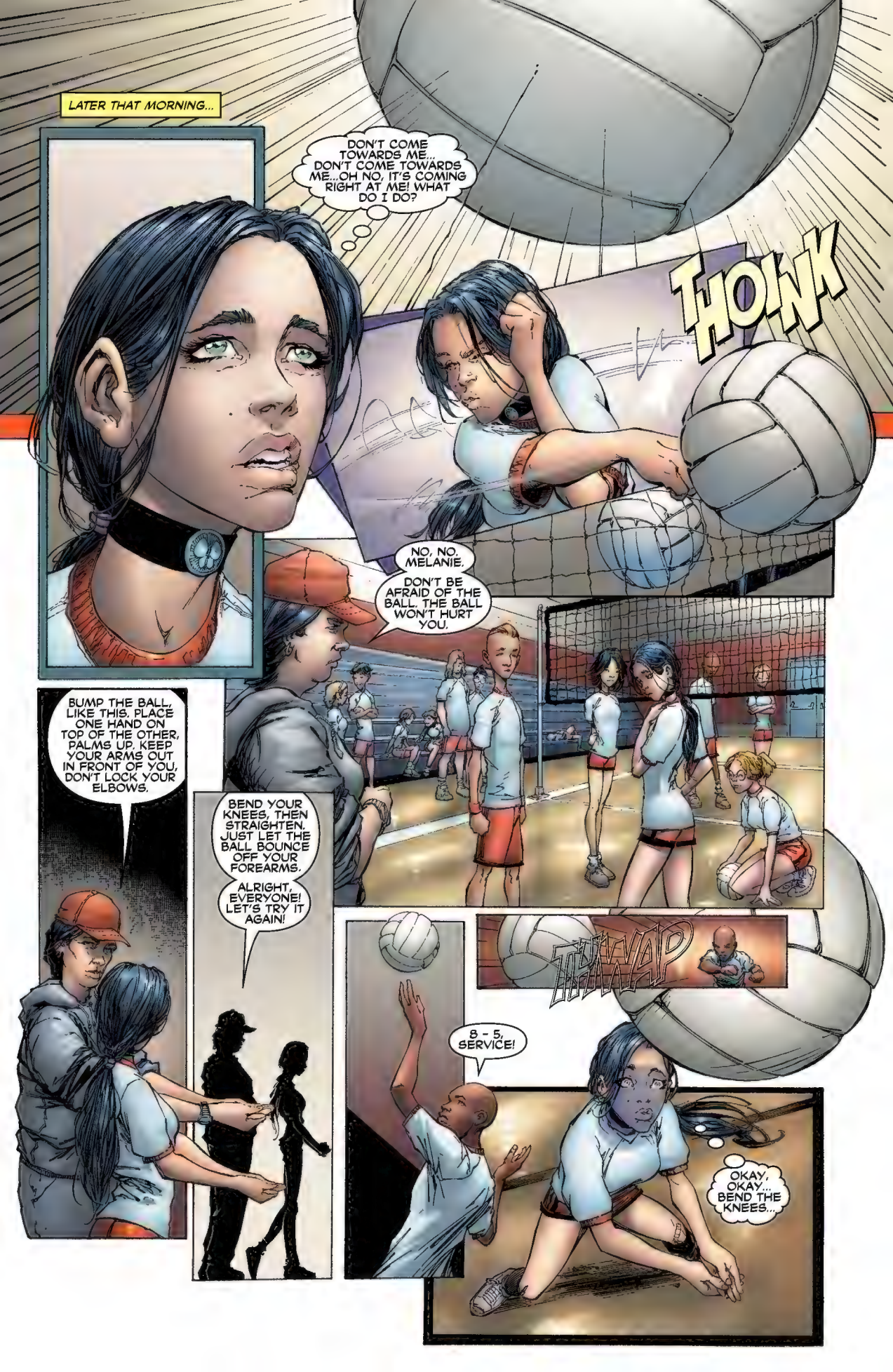
ONCE AN IMMORTAL IS IN POSSESSION OF A BODY, IT ALWAYS COMES AFTER ME.
RRAARRHHH!
WHY THEY KEEP PURSUING ME, I DON'T KNOW.
ARE THEY AFRAID OF ME? OF WHAT I MIGHT BECOME IF I LEARN HOW TO FULLY USE MY POWERS?
OR IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE THEY WANT?
GGRRR
KRA-THRUNKK
SOMETHING WORSE.
SHNK
AARRRGHH!
WHATEVER IT IS, I WON'T HESITATE TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO STOP THEM.
I AM THE KEEPER OF THE WRAITHBORN, AND THIS IS WHAT I DO.

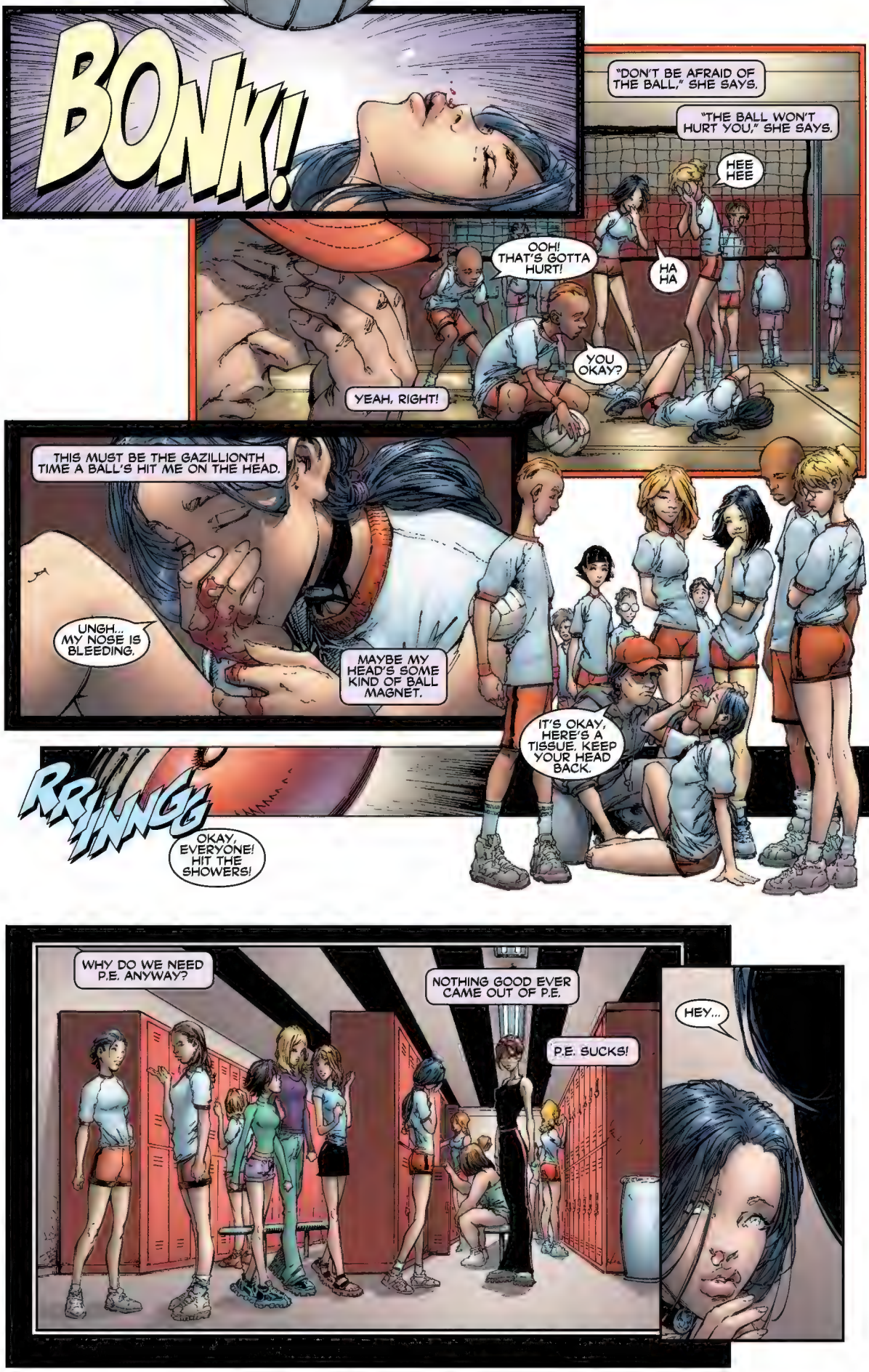

ARGH
I DEFEND THE WEAK.
UNGH... NO, WAIT!
I PROTECT THE INNOCENT.
IT'S GONE! THE THING...THE DEMON... IT...IT'S GONE.
TSSSSS...
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN!
I WAS JUST, YOU KNOW, PLAYING AROUND. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS REAL. I DIDN'T KNOW!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR RESCUING ME! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK --
SHKT
I HAVE NO MERCY FOR THE FOOLISH.

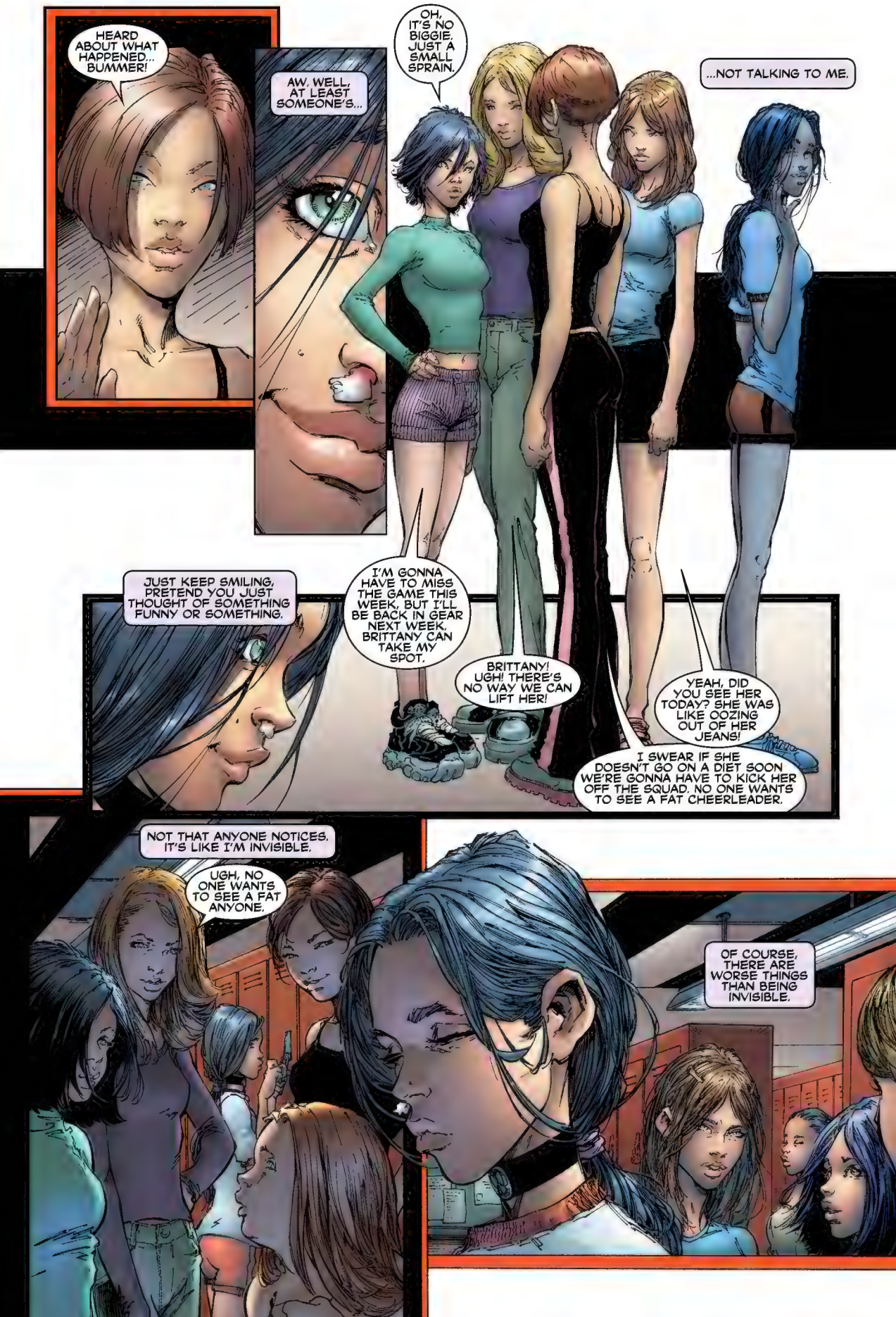

FOOLISH MISTAKES HAVE DIRE CONSEQUENCES.
A BITTER LESSON I LEARNED THE HARD WAY.
TSSSSS
MY NAME WAS MELANIE. MELANIE MOORE.
I WAS JUST AN ORDINARY TEENAGE GIRL WITH ORDINARY TEENAGE PROBLEMS.
AND IT WAS JUST ANOTHER ORDINARY DAY IN MY ORDINARY HOMETOWN, MARINETTE, LOUISIANA.
YAWN
I DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN, BUT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST DAY OF MY ORDINARY LIFE.
SSSSSS
WRAITHBORD CREATED BY JOE BENITEZ & MARCIA CHEN
IN THE BEGINNING
CHAPTER 1

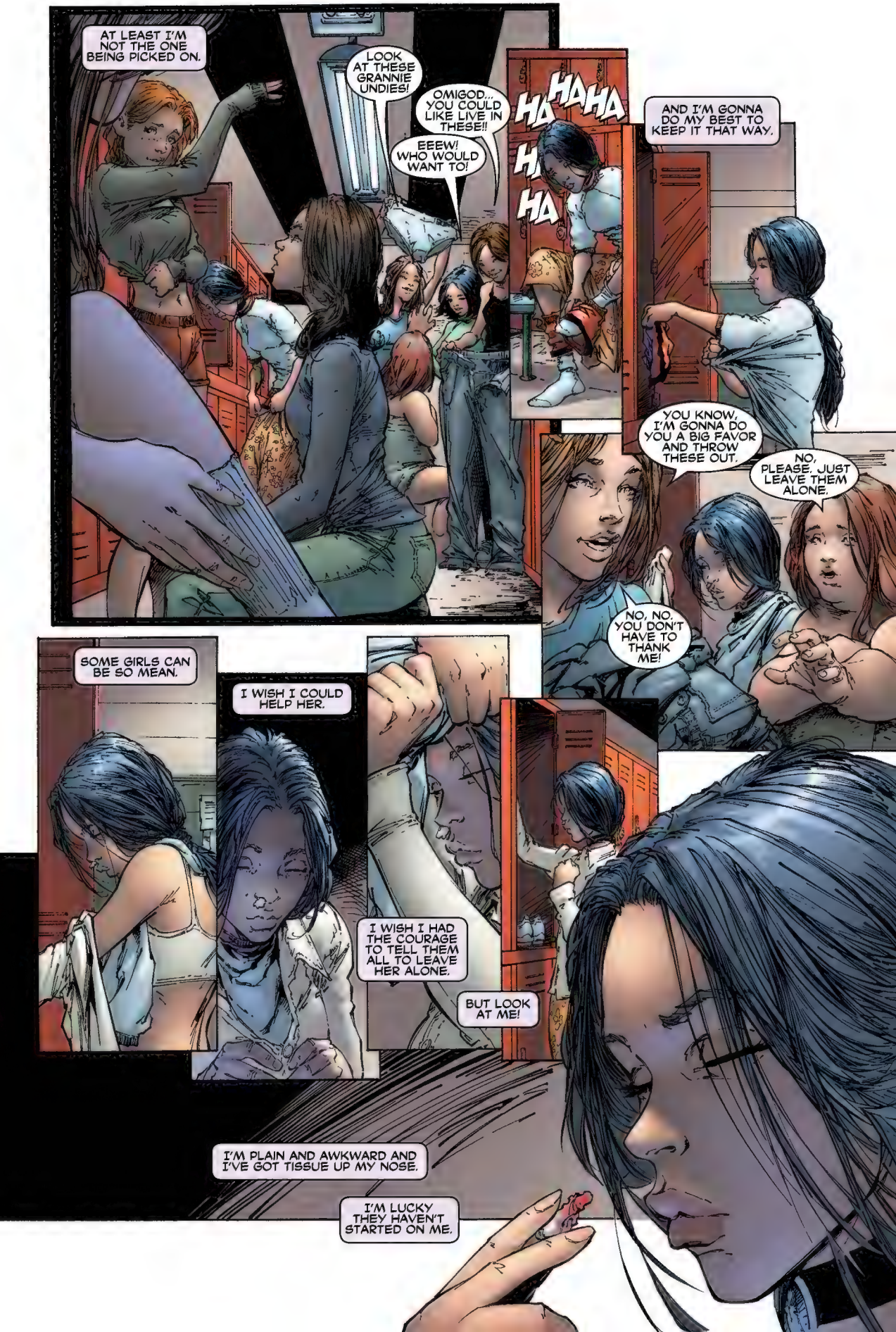
MORNIN', PUNKIN!
MORNIN', PAPA.
BREAKFAST IS READY!
KHHK
AW, SWEETIE, YOU LOOK TIRED.
YOU KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE ME BREAKFAST EVERYDAY.
I CAN FIX SOMETHING UP MYSELF, OR GRAB SOMETHING ON MY WAY TO WORK.
YEAH, BUT THEN YOU'LL JUST GET ONE OF THOSE BACON-HAM-CHEESE THINGIES AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID ABOUT YOU GETTING YOUR CHOLESTEROL DOWN.
NAH, THE DOCTOR'S EXAGGERATING. A LITTLE GOOD FOOD NEVER KILLED NO ONE.
HEY, EGGS! YUM! I THOUGHT EGGS WERE OFF LIMITS.
THEY ARE. THOSE ARE FAT-FREE, CHOLESTEROL-FREE EGG SUBSTITUTE, BUT TASTES JUST AS GOOD, HUH?
MMMM...
I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR MY CLASS. GOTTA GO!
BYE, HON! I'LL BE HOME LATE TODAY! IT'S POKER NIGHT!


DAD, WAIT!
I MADE YOU SOME LUNCH. TURKEY SANDWICH.
FOR A SEC I'M AFRAID HE'S GONNA HUG ME OR SOMETHING.
HE SETTLES FOR A PAT ON THE HEAD. PHEW.
THANKS, HON.
EVEN THAT SMALL SIGN OF AFFECTION IS RARE FOR US.
YOU'RE A GOOD KID.
RARE AND UNCOMFORTABLE.
AND GET SOMETHING HEALTHY FOR DINNER. NO GOING FOR BURGERS WITH THE GUYS!
OKAY, OKAY! HAVE FUN AT SCHOOL!
HE'S A GOOD DAD, BUT HE NEEDS SOME LOOKING AFTER.

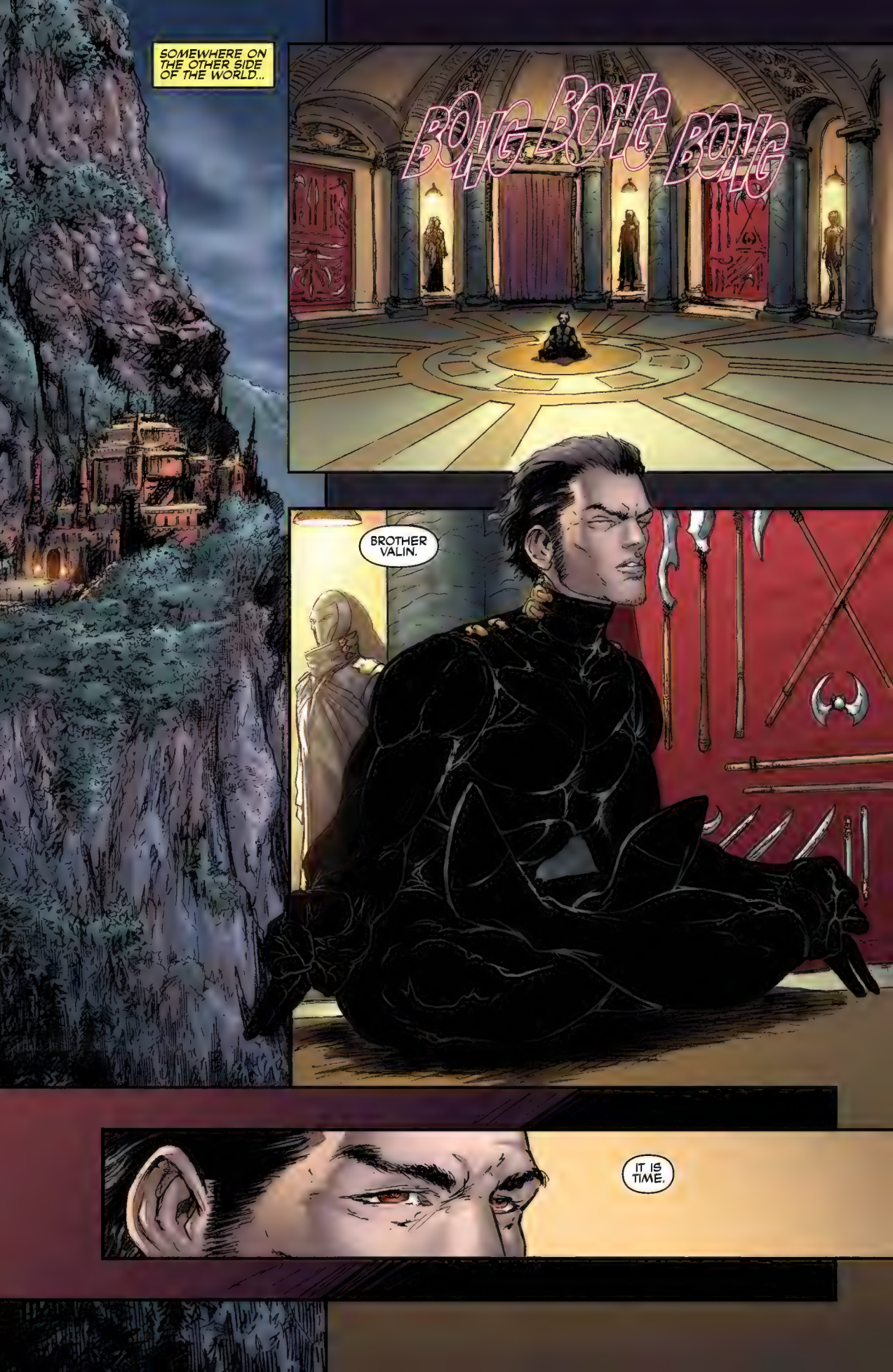

LATER THAT MORNING...
DON'T COME TOWARDS ME... DON'T COME TOWARDS ME...OH NO, IT'S COMING RIGHT AT ME! WHAT DO I DO?
THOINK
NO, NO, MELANIE.
DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE BALL. THE BALL WON'T HURT YOU.
BUMP THE BALL, LIKE THIS. PLACE ONE HAND ON TOP OF THE OTHER, PALMS UP. KEEP YOUR ARMS OUT IN FRONT OF YOU, DON'T LOCK YOUR ELBOWS.
BEND YOUR KNEES, THEN STRAIGHTEN. JUST LET THE BALL BOUNCE OFF YOUR FOREARMS.
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE! LET'S TRY IT AGAIN!
THWAP
8 - 5, SERVICE!
OKAY, OKAY... BEND THE KNEES...


BONK!
"DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE BALL," SHE SAYS.
"THE BALL WON'T HURT YOU," SHE SAYS.
HEE HEE
HA HA
OOH! THAT'S GOTTA HURT!
YOU OKAY?
YEAH, RIGHT!
THIS MUST BE THE GAZILLIONTH TIME A BALL'S HIT ME ON THE HEAD.
UNGH... MY NOSE IS BLEEDING.
MAYBE MY HEAD'S SOME KIND OF BALL MAGNET.
IT'S OKAY, HERE'S A TISSUE. KEEP YOUR HEAD BACK.
RRINNGG
OKAY, EVERYONE! HIT THE SHOWERS!
WHY DO WE NEED P.E. ANYWAY?
NOTHING GOOD EVER CAME OUT OF P.E.
P.E. SUCKS!
HEY...


HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED... BUMMER!
AW. WELL, AT LEAST SOMEONE'S...
OH, IT'S NO BIGGIE. JUST A SMALL SPRAIN.
...NOT TALKING TO ME.
JUST KEEP SMILING, PRETEND YOU JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING FUNNY OR SOMETHING.
I'M GONNA HAVE TO MISS THE GAME THIS WEEK, BUT I'LL BE BACK IN GEAR NEXT WEEK. BRITTANY CAN TAKE MY SPOT.
BRITTANY! UGH! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN LIFT HER!
YEAH, DID YOU SEE HER TODAY? SHE WAS LIKE OOZING OUT OF HER JEANS!
I SWEAR IF SHE DOESN'T GO ON A DIET SOON WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO KICK HER OFF THE SQUAD. NO ONE WANTS TO SEE A FAT CHEERLEADER.
NOT THAT ANYONE NOTICES. IT'S LIKE I'M INVISIBLE.
UGH, NO ONE WANTS TO SEE A FAT ANYONE.
OF COURSE, THERE ARE WORSE THINGS THAN BEING INVISIBLE.


AT LEAST I'M NOT THE ONE BEING PICKED ON.
LOOK AT THESE GRANNIE UNDIES!
OMIGOD... YOU COULD LIKE LIVE IN THESE!!
EEEW! WHO WOULD WANT TO!
HA HA HA
HA
AND I'M GONNA DO MY BEST TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
YOU KNOW, I'M GONNA DO YOU A BIG FAVOR AND THROW THESE OUT.
NO, PLEASE. JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE.
NO, NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME!
SOME GIRLS CAN BE SO MEAN.
I WISH I COULD HELP HER.
I WISH I HAD THE COURAGE TO TELL THEM ALL TO LEAVE HER ALONE.
BUT LOOK AT ME!
I'M PLAIN AND AWKWARD AND I'VE GOT TISSUE UP MY NOSE.
I'M LUCKY THEY HAVEN'T STARTED ON ME.

PLEASE... COULD SOMEONE GET MY CLOTHES FOR ME?
PLEASE?
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
PLEASE HELP ME.
HEE HEE HEE
MELANIE... COULD YOU HELP ME...PLEASE?
OH, NO. WHY'D SHE HAVE TO ASK ME?
I WANT TO HELP. REALLY I DO.
BUT I JUST CAN'T.
IT'LL BE OKAY. SOMEONE ELSE WILL HELP HER.
I'M SORRY, AMY.
SORRY I'M SUCH A COWARD.


SOMEWHERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD...
BONG BONG BONG
BROTHER VALIN.
IT IS TIME.

WE ARE ZANSHIN.
PROTECTORS OF THE WORLD. DEFENDERS OF THE HUMAN RACE.
TO OUR BROTHERHOOD HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED THE ONE POWER THAT CAN DEFY DEMONKIND.
TO ONE BROTHER IS GIVEN THE BURDEN TO BEAR IT.
TO STAND ALONE AGAINST THE DEMONS.
TO TAKE NO WIFE AND BEGET NO SONS.
TO HAVE NO FAMILY SAVE THIS BROTHERHOOD.
A LIFETIME OF NEVERENDING DANGER AND BLOODSHED. THIS IS WHAT AWAITS THE CHOSEN HEIR, THE KEEPER OF THE WRAITHBORN.
BROTHER VALIN.
YOU HAVE PASSED THE ZANSHIN TRIALS, DEFEATED THE OTHER CANDIDATES, AND DEDICATED A FORTNIGHT TO SOLITARY INTROSPECTION.
DO YOU NOW CHOOSE TO ACCEPT THIS SACRED CHARGE?
I DO.
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT ONCE THE RITUAL IS COMPLETE, THE CHOICE CANNOT BE UNDONE. YOU SHALL BE LINKED TO THE WRAITHBORN FOREVER.
I UNDERSTAND.
THEN BRING FORTH THE CURRENT KEEPER.
HE... HE'S NOT HERE!
KLANK
WHERE IS BROTHER AEGEUS?

BACK IN MARINETTE, LOUISIANA.

HRRAAA

KRUNK

THUNK

HA

HRRAAA

HYUNGH!

FAMILIE

UNGH!
GRRR
SNKT
HOW...?
UNGGG...
THUNK
THIS...THIS BELONGS TO THE ZANSHIN.
WE HAVE A TRAITOR...

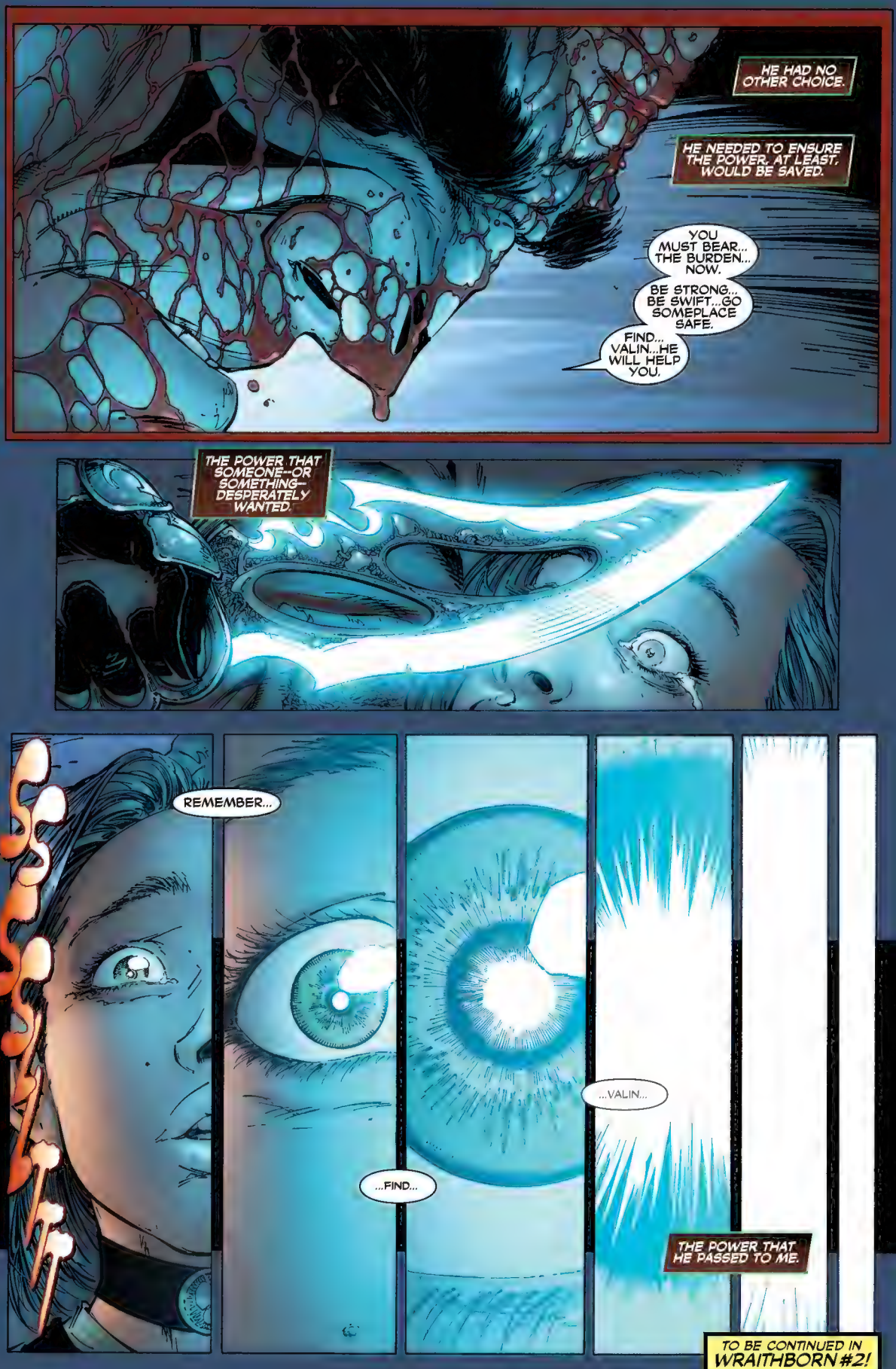
MEANWHILE, AT MARINETTE'S EASTMARK MALL...
...BUT HE'S A LEO! CHER, YOU KNOW A LEO'S NO GOOD FOR YOU! YOU'RE A TAURUS! AND EVERYONE KNOWS A TAURUS AND A LEO TOGETHER IS ABSOLUTELY 100% BAD NEWS!!!
ARE YOU GONNA TAKE HIM TO ARON'S PARTY? WHAT'RE YOU GONNA WEAR? I WAS THINKING ABOUT WEARING THAT NEW SKIRT I GOT LAST WEEK BUT IT KINDA CLASHES WITH MY HAIR...
...SO THEN I STARTED THINKING MAYBE I SHOULD CHANGE MY HAIR COLOR. I'VE BEEN PINK FOR LIKE FOREVER. WHADDAYA THINK OF BLUE?
NO FOOD OR DRINKS IN STORE
OH, GOOD! ZOE'S HERE! SHE ALWAYS MAKES WORK FUN!
BARGAIN BIN
FUNKY COLORS HAS THIS REALLY COOL SHADE OF BLUE--IT'S CALLED BLUE VELVET--
BUT I DON'T REALLY LIKE FUNKY COLORS CUZ IT STARTS WASHING OUT AFTER ONLY LIKE 3 SHAMPOOS...
...AND IT LEAKS LIKE CRAZY SO I'D GET BLUE ALL OVER MY PILLOWS AND TOWELS AND CLOTHES AND STUFF. BUT I HEAR THERE'S A NEW BRAND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE PERMANENT BUT THEY DON'T--
WE TALK A LOT ...WELL, SHE TALKS A LOT AND I LISTEN. WE AREN'T REALLY CLOSE OR ANYTHING, BUT SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN NICE TO ME.
WOOSH
OH NO!!!
OH NO OH NO OH NO OH NO!
MR. DAVIS IS GONNA BE SOOOO MAD! AND DIDN'T HE JUST WARN ME ABOUT BRINGING DRINKS IN THE STORE? OH, WHAT IF I GET FIRED?
Hi! My name is ZOE How can I help?
ZOE? WHAT HAPPENED? UM...ZOE? ZOE? HELLO?
OH, NO, I'M SO GONNA GET FIRED!

GRAMS IS GONNA KILL ME IF I GET FIRED FROM ANOTHER JOB AGAIN!
AND OH, NO, WHAT ABOUT KITTY! POOR KITTY! SHE'S BEEN COUGHING AND SNEEZING AND WHEEZING AND I THINK SHE'S GETTING ANOTHER ASTHMA ATTACK BUT I'M OUT OF HER MEDS SO I GOTTA TAKE HER TO THE VET BUT WHAT IF MR. DAVIS MAKES ME PAY FOR THESE BOOKS AND I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR HER PILLS! OH, WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
MAYBE WE CAN CLEAN IT UP BEFORE --
ZOE!!!
UH-OH...
Manager
I'VE TOLD YOU TIME AND TIME AGAIN NOT TO BRING FOOD OR DRINKS IN HERE!
LOOK AT THIS MESS! BOOKS, RUINED! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THESE NOW?
THAT'S IT, ZOE! YOU'RE FIR--
UM... MR. DAVIS?
?
OH, NO. WHAT AM I DOING?
UM...IT'S, UM, NOT ZOE'S FAULT.
I...I SAW A CUSTOMER LEAVE THAT CUP ON THE COUNTER. I WAS GOING TO THROW IT AWAY, BUT I FORGOT.
OH.
WELL, OKAY. JUST CLEAN IT UP AND GET BACK TO WORK.
YES, SIR.
OKAY. NO PROB.
THANK YOU.
WELL, AT LEAST I WAS ABLE TO HELP SOMEONE TODAY. I HOPE MOMMA WOULD BE PROUD.

MY MOTHER ALWAYS SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HELP THOSE IN NEED. AFTER ALL, SHE WAS A SOCIAL WORKER.
BUT I HAD A VERY GOOD REASON FOR NOT WANTING TO GET INVOLVED IN OTHER PEOPLE'S TROUBLES.
HELPING OTHERS COST MY MOTHER HER LIFE.
MARINETTE CEMETERY
HI MOMMA. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY GOT SOME FLOWERS.
YELLOW ROSES, YOUR FAVORITE.
GUESS PAPA CAME BY TO VISIT YOU TOO.
HE WENT OUT TO PLAY POKER WITH THE OTHER MATH PROFESSORS. IT'S GOOD HE HAS FRIENDS.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET HIM TO EAT BETTER BUT I KNOW HE'S SNEAKING IN JUNK FOOD.
HE MISSES YOU.
ELIZABETH ANN MOORE
BELOVED WIFE AND MOTHER
SEPTEMBER 6 1961
NOVEMBER 19 2002
I MISS YOU.
WELL, I BETTER GET GOING.
GOOD NIGHT, MOMMA. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

I TOOK MY TIME ON THE WALK BACK TO MY CAR. I WASN'T IN ANY HURRY TO GO HOME AND DO MY CHEMISTRY HOMEWORK.
IT WAS ALREADY DARK, BUT I WASN'T TOO WORRIED. AFTER ALL, THIS WAS MARINETTE, NOT NEW ORLEANS.
BAD THINGS DIDN'T HAPPEN HERE.
OR SO I THOUGHT.
KRNCH
?!
GASP!

IT WAS JUST BAD LUCK THAT I WAS THERE THAT DAY.
AAAHHHH!
IN THE WRONG PLACE.
TAK
THUND
OOOMPH!
AT THE WRONG TIME.
NOOO!
UNGH...
HELP!! SOMEBODY HELP ME!
SK SKRCH RCH
TAK TAK THNK TAK TAK
I'M SORRY, LITTLE ONE, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY.


HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.
HE NEEDED TO ENSURE THE POWER, AT LEAST, WOULD BE SAVED.
YOU MUST BEAR... THE BURDEN... NOW.
BE STRONG... BE SWIFT...GO SOMEPLACE SAFE.
FIND... VALIN...HE WILL HELP YOU.
THE POWER THAT SOMEONE--OR SOMETHING--DESPERATELY WANTED.
REMEMBER...
...FIND...
...VALIN...
THE POWER THAT HE PASSED TO ME.
TO BE CONTINUED IN WRAITHBORN #2!

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ISSUE TWO
MARCH 2016

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WRAITHBORN REDUX

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MARCH 2016

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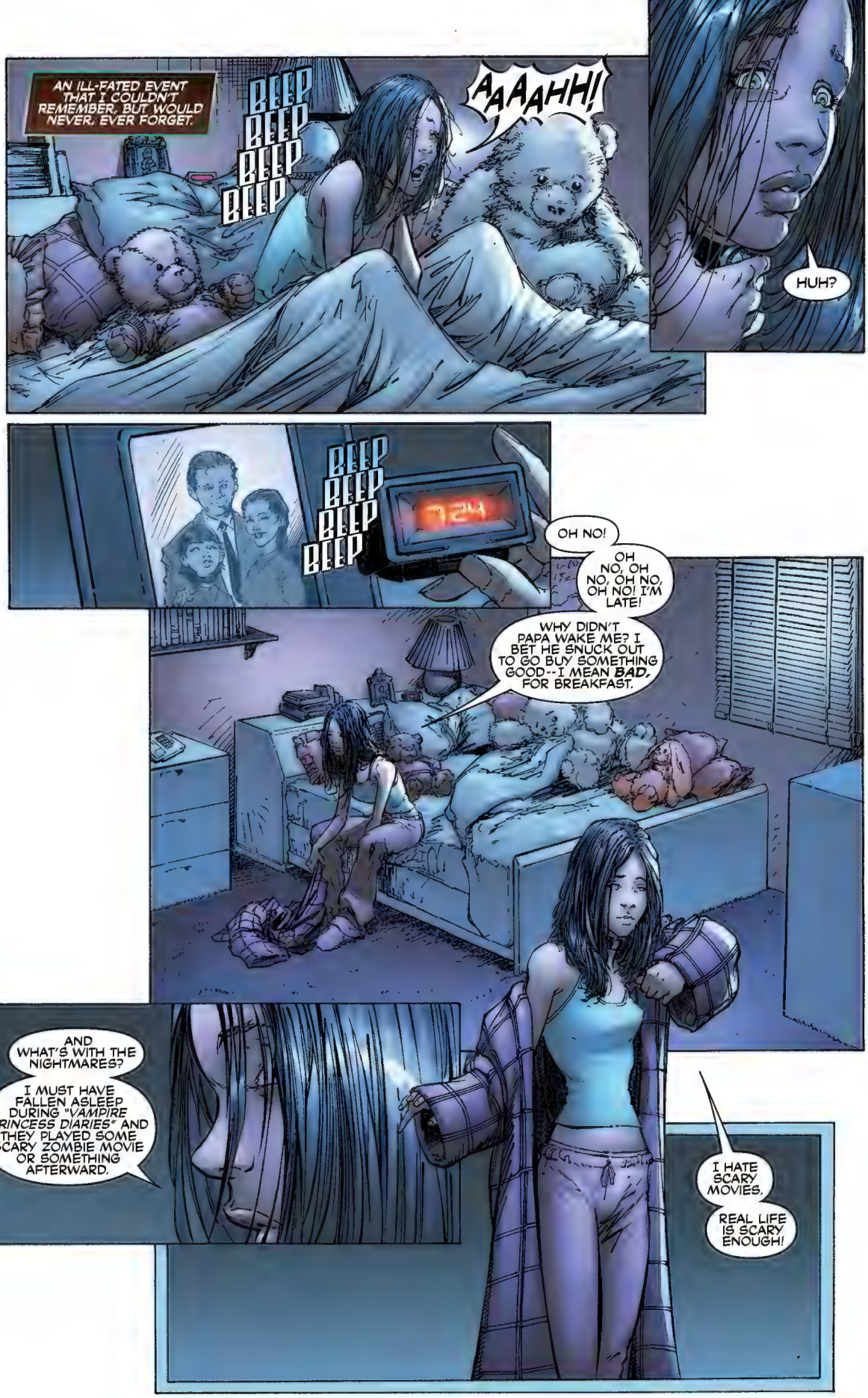
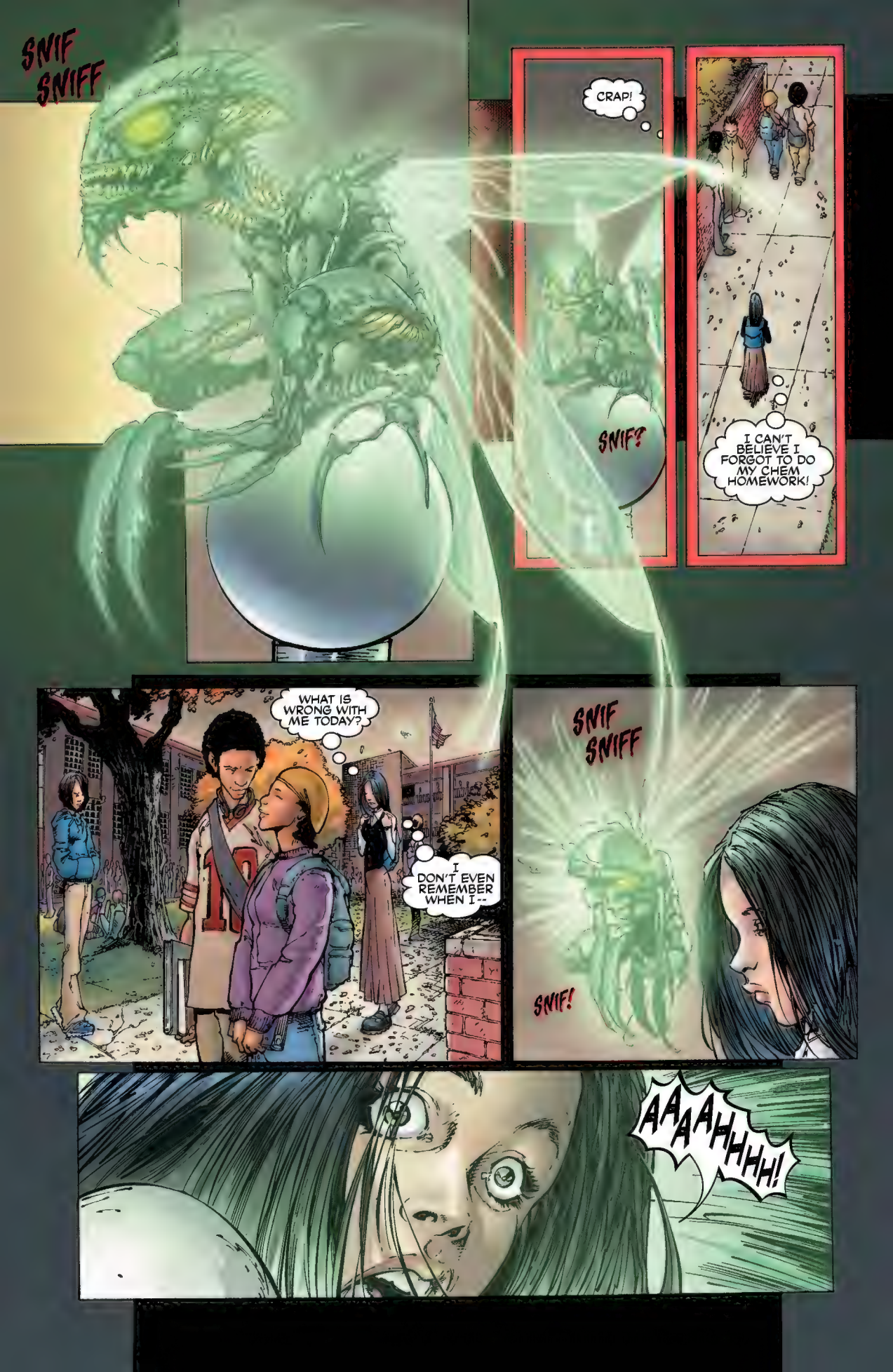
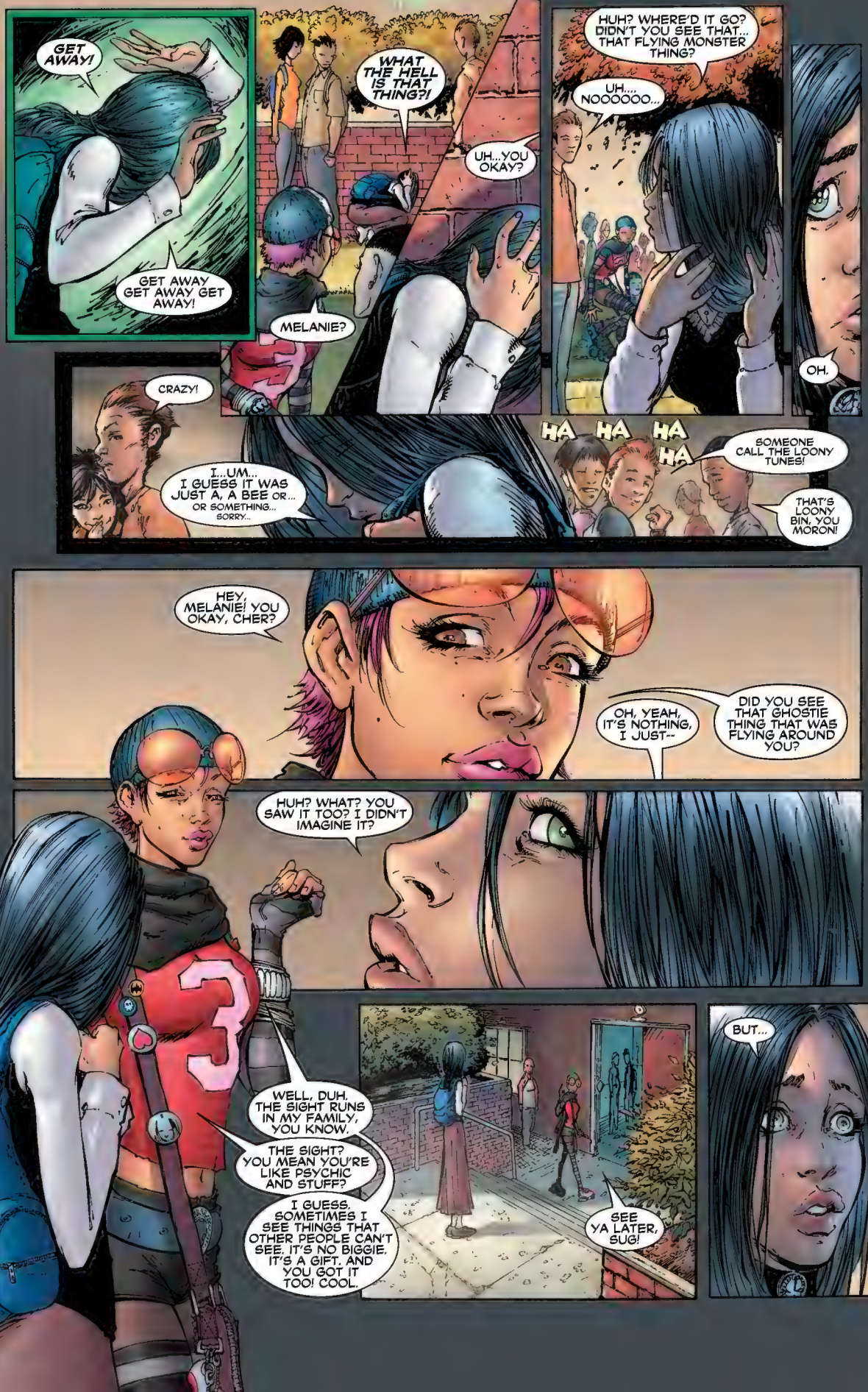
THE FORTUNE TELLERS SAY THAT THE WHOLE OF YOUR LIFE IS CHARTED IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.
FOR MOST, THEY SEE A STRAIGHT, UNBROKEN LINE, AN EASILY PREDICTED FUTURE THAT RUNS THE COURSE IT WAS MEANT TO TAKE.

BUT FOR OTHERS, THE LIFE LINE IS BROKEN. SHATTERED BY AN EVENT OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT ONE'S LIFE IS DRASTICALLY AND IRREVOCABLY CHANGED, TAKING IT DOWN A PATH THAT NEVER WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN ENCOUNTERED.
FOR ME, THAT EVENT WAS WHEN I RECEIVED THE WRAITHBORN.
WHAT...?
WHAT HAPPENED?
OW... WHY IS...
WHAT THE...?!
AH...AH... AH...
WHA...?
AAAHHH!


AN ILL-FATED EVENT THAT I COULDN'T REMEMBER, BUT WOULD NEVER, EVER FORGET.
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
AAAAHH!
HUH?
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
OH NO!
OH NO, OH NO, OH NO, OH NO! I'M LATE!
WHY DIDN'T PAPA WAKE ME? I BET HE SNUCK OUT TO GO BUY SOMETHING GOOD--I MEAN BAD, FOR BREAKFAST.
AND WHAT'S WITH THE NIGHTMARES?
I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP DURING "VAMPIRE PRINCESS DIARIES" AND THEY PLAYED SOME SCARY ZOMBIE MOVIE OR SOMETHING AFTERWARD.
I HATE SCARY MOVIES.
REAL LIFE IS SCARY ENOUGH!

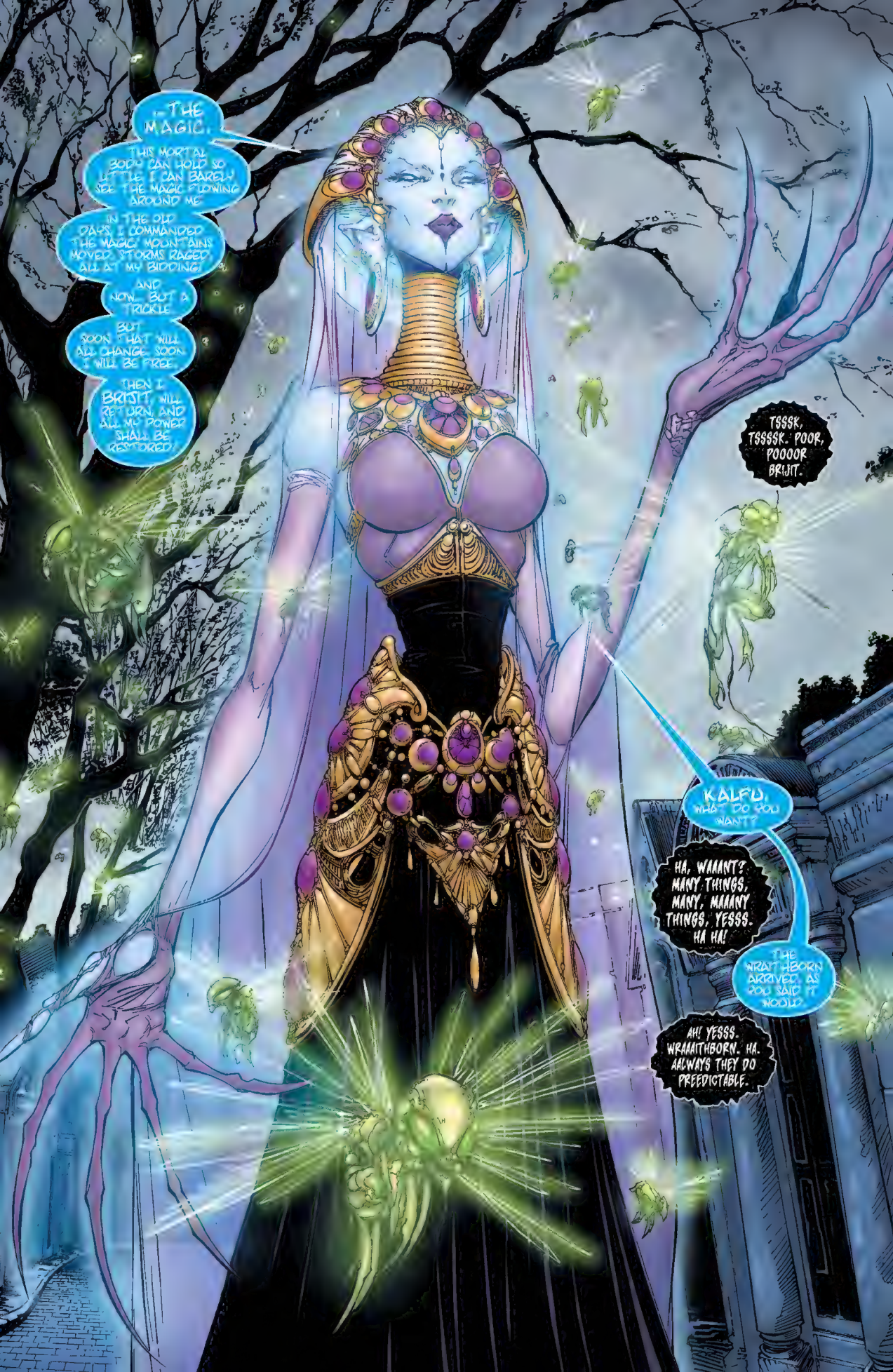
MARIDETTE HIGH SCHOOL
MY TURN, MY TURN! COME ON, ZOE! DO MY READING NEXT!
OKAY, OKAY!
HERE, THIS ROW REPRESENTS THE PRESENT. YOU FIND YOURSELF DRAWN TO A PERSON, PLACE, OR THING...
OOOOH, THE LOVERS! DEFINITELY A PERSON THEN... NO, TWO PERSONS!
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO DENY YOUR FEELINGS, BUT YOUR HEART IS TORN BETWEEN TWO GUYS.
ONE IS QUIET AND SHY, BUT VERY SMART.
AND THE OTHER IS BOLD AND DARING, AND LOVES TO STAND OUT IN A CROWD.
OOOOOOH! I BET I KNOW WHO THAT IS!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
NO! NO! SHUT UP, SHUT UP!
HA
HA
HA
HA
BZZ


SNIF SNIFF
CRAP!
SNIF?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I FORGOT TO DO MY CHEM HOMEWORK!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME TODAY?
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHEN I--
SNIF SNIFF
SNIF!
AAAAHHHH!


GET AWAY!
GET AWAY GET AWAY GET AWAY!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!
UH...YOU OKAY?
MELANIE?
CRAZY!
I...UM... I GUESS IT WAS JUST A, A BEE OR... OR SOMETHING... SORRY...
HUH? WHERE'D IT GO? DIDN'T YOU SEE THAT... THAT FLYING MONSTER THING?
UH.... NOOOOOO...
OH.
HA HA HA HA
SOMEONE CALL THE LOONY TUNES!
THAT'S LOONY BIN, YOU MORON!
HEY, MELANIE! YOU OKAY, CHER?
OH, YEAH, IT'S NOTHING, I JUST--
DID YOU SEE THAT GHOSTIE THING THAT WAS FLYING AROUND YOU?
HUH? WHAT? YOU SAW IT TOO? I DIDN'T IMAGINE IT?
WELL, DUH. THE SIGHT RUNS IN MY FAMILY, YOU KNOW.
THE SIGHT? YOU MEAN YOU'RE LIKE PSYCHIC AND STUFF?
I GUESS. SOMETIMES I SEE THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T SEE. IT'S NO BIGGIE. IT'S A GIFT. AND YOU GOT IT TOO! COOL.
SEE YA LATER, SUG!
BUT...

ZOE! WAIT!
SO WHAT WAS THAT THING OUTSIDE?
OH, PROBABLY JUST SOME KIND OF LOA OR SOMETHING.
SOME KIND OF WHAT?
LOA. YOU KNOW, VOODOO SPIRITS.
YOU MEAN LIKE GHOSTS?
COULD BE, I DUNNO. I DON'T THINK ANYONE REALLY KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE. GRAMS SAYS THEY'RE ANCIENT GODS OR NATURE SPIRITS OR GHOSTS OF OUR ANCESTORS OR SOMETHING.
CAN THEY HURT US?
NAW...THEY'RE LIKE, WELL, GHOSTS! THEY CAN'T AFFECT PHYSICAL STUFF. I WALKED RIGHT THROUGH ONE ONCE. DIDN'T FEEL A THING! THE ONLY THING THEY CAN REALLY DO IS SCARE YOU, IF YOU LET THEM.
SOME PEOPLE SAY THEY CAN POSSESS YOU AND STUFF, BUT THAT'S JUST SUPERSTITIOUS CRAP. I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT, YOU KNOW?
ARE THEY...EVIL?
OF COURSE NOT. WELL, AT LEAST NOT ALL OF THEM. THEY'RE JUST LIKE PEOPLE. THERE ARE NICE ONES AND THERE ARE MEAN ONES.
I WAS FRIENDS WITH ONE ONCE, WHEN I WAS LITTLE. EVERYONE THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST AN IMAGINARY FRIEND, BUT SHE WASN'T. WE USED TO HANG OUT A LOT. SHE'D TELL ME ALL SORTS OF STUFF, LIKE WHERE I LOST MY DOLL OR WHICH HOUSES HAD THE GOOD CANDY FOR HALLOWEEN OR WHATEVER. IT WAS FUN.
THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU SEEN ONE, HON?

YES. I NEVER BELIEVED IN GHOSTS OR ESP OR UFOs OR ANY OF THAT STUFF BEFORE.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT UFOs, BUT THE GHOSTIES ARE REAL! AND SO ARE PSYCHIC POWERS. IT'S PRETTY COOL...YOU'LL SEE.
LATER, CHER!
WOW. ME, PSYCHIC?
MARIDETTE CEMETERY
"THE LIVING EARTH BENEATH MY FEET
"THE KISS OF MOONLIGHT UPON MY SKIN
"THESE THINGS I MISS
BUT NOT AS MUCH AS...


...THE MAGIC.
THIS MORTAL BODY CAN HOLD SO LITTLE I CAN BARELY SEE THE MAGIC FLOWING AROUND ME
IN THE OLD DAYS, I COMMANDED THE MAGIC! MOUNTAINS MOVED, STORMS RAGED, ALL AT MY BIDDING!
AND NOW... BUT A TRICKLE
BUT SOON THAT WILL ALL CHANGE. SOON I WILL BE FREE.
THEN I, BRIJIT, WILL RETURN, AND ALL MY POWER SHALL BE RESTORED!
TSSSK, TSSSSK. POOR, POOOR BRIJIT.
KALFU, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HA, WAAANT? MANY THINGS, MANY, MAAANY THINGS, YESSS. HA HA!
THE WRAITHBORN ARRIVED, AS YOU SAID IT WOULD.
AH! YESSS. WRAAAITHBORN. HA. AALWAYS THEY DO PREEDICTABLE.

THE KEEPER IS DEAD NOW. DEFEATED BY MY CHAMPION.

MY CHAMPION IS LOST AS WELL. DESTROYED BY THE WRAITHBORN.

DEAD, DEAD. YESS, YESSS. ASHES, ASHESSS. SSSTRONG MUST HE BE, AH, YOUR CHAMPION, YESSS.

AH. BUT ANOTHER YOU CAAAN MAAKE, YESSS? CLEVER, CLEVER BRIJEEEEET. BIGGER. FASSSTER. SSSTRONGER! YESS, YESSS!

YES, OF COURSE! I SHALL CREATE ANOTHER CHAMPION, A BETTER CHAMPION!

MY SERVANTS HAVE ALREADY FOUND IT. A GIRL CHILD. WEAK. NOT ONE OF THOSE ZAAKHIN PESTS.

SHE WILL BE EASY TO SUBDUE.

SEEKERS! HOUNDS! HEAR ME AND OBEY! THE WRAITHBORN HAS FOUND A NEW HOST!

GO. NOW. BRING THE WRAITHBORN TO ME!

YESS, YESSS! AAAND WRAITHBORN? HMMM?

IT HAS FOUND ANOTHER HOST

AH, AH. MUSSST FIND!

FIND, FIIND, FIIIIND!

SOON. KALFU. SOON. SOON WE SHALL ALL BE FREE!

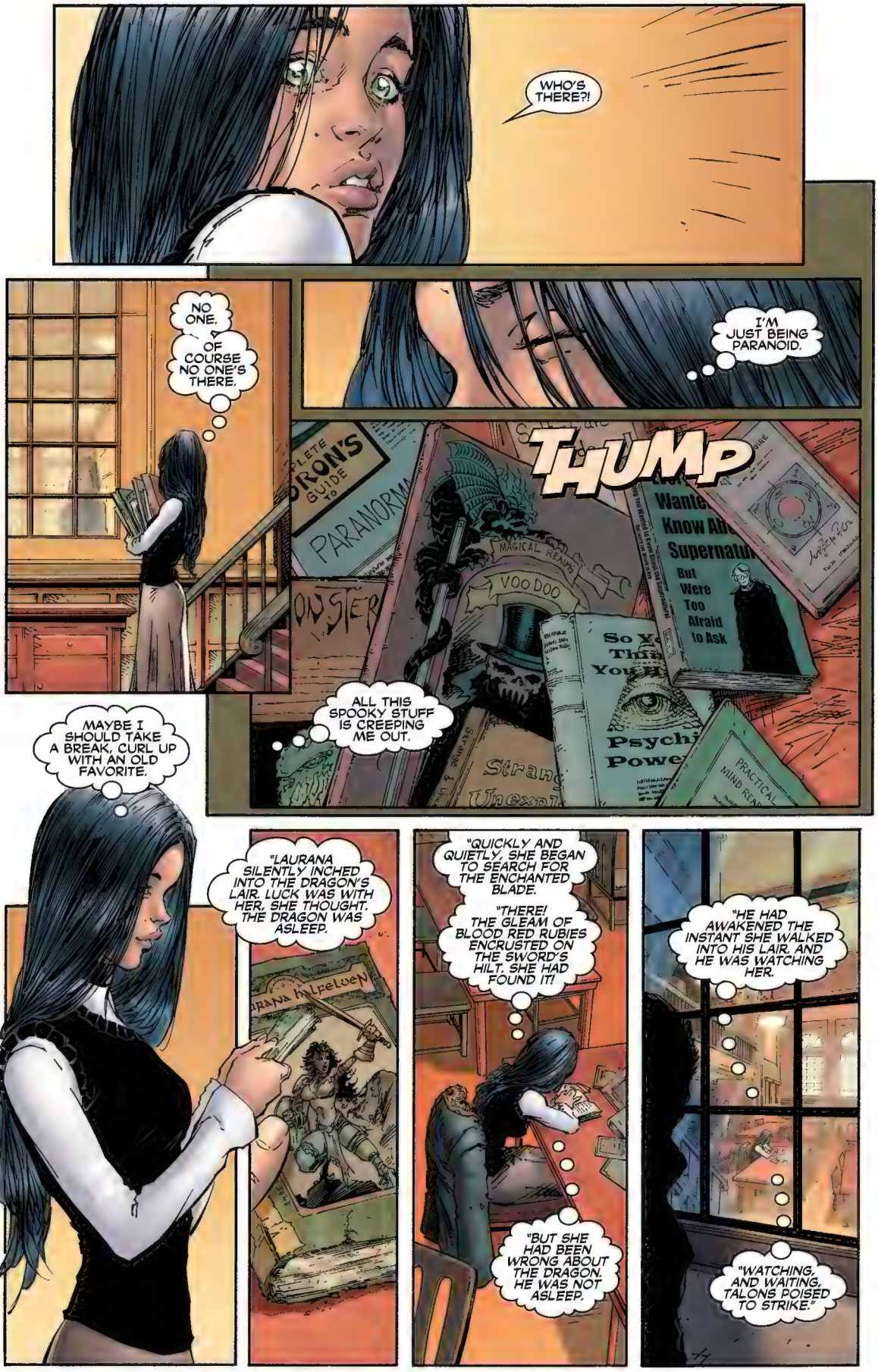
MARINETTE HIGH SCHOOL.
UH... WHAT'S THIS?
SHE MUST BE NEW HERE.
YOU'RE IN OUR SPOT, NOOB.
WHA... UM...NO, I'M NOT NEW...
SINCE YOU'RE NEW, YOU GET A PASS.
BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT *THIS,* THIS IS *OUR* TABLE. NOBODY SITS HERE BUT US.
AND YOU'RE *CLEARLY* NOT ONE OF US, SO YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO MOVE. LIKE NOW.

MOVE ALONG, NOOB!
OH, OKAY, SURE, OF COURSE...
SORRY, I JUST WASN'T PAYING ATTEN--
EEEK! MY SHOES!
OH, NO! I...UM... I'M...
WOW, YOU ARE SOOOO NOT ONE OF US.
IT'S OKAY! YOUR SHOES ARE SAFE!
DON'T EVER DO IT AGAIN. GOT IT, NEW GIRL?
I...UM... OKAY...

HEY! THERE YOU GUYS ARE!
SQUELCH
OH NO...
MY FAVORITE BOOK...
HERE, MELANIE.
YOU MISSED ONE.

OH...AMY... THANKS.
NO PROBLEM.
UM...ABOUT YESTERDAY... I...
IT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, I UNDERSTAND.
I'LL SEE YOU IN CHEM.
I...
I'M SORRY...

MARINETTE LIBRARY.
"THE COMPLETE MORON'S GUIDE TO THE PARANORMAL."
"STRANGE AND UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA."
"SO YOU THINK YOU HAVE PSYCHIC POWERS?"
OKAY. THAT SHOULD DO IT. ONE OF THESE BOOKS SHOULD EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON.
HMMM...
MAYBE I BETTER LOOK UP HALLUCINATIONS AND BRAIN TUMORS TOO WHILE I'M AT IT.
I SURE HOPE ZOE'S RIGHT ABOUT ME BEING PSYCHIC INSTEAD OF CRAZY.
BUT WHAT IF I HAVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN WHAT SHE'S GOT?
WHAT IF THESE GHOSTIES CAN HURT ME? OR POSSESS ME? WHAT IF THEY DO SOMETHING BAD TO ME?
OR WHAT IF--
WAIT!


WHO'S THERE?!
I'M JUST BEING PARANOID.
NO ONE.
OF COURSE NO ONE'S THERE.
THUMP
ALL THIS SPOOKY STUFF IS CREEPING ME OUT.
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE A BREAK, CURL UP WITH AN OLD FAVORITE.
"LAURANA SILENTLY INCHED INTO THE DRAGON'S LAIR. LUCK WAS WITH HER, SHE THOUGHT. THE DRAGON WAS ASLEEP.
"QUICKLY AND QUIETLY, SHE BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR THE ENCHANTED BLADE.
"THERE! THE GLEAM OF BLOOD RED RUBIES ENCRUSTED ON THE SWORD'S HILT. SHE HAD FOUND IT!
"BUT SHE HAD BEEN WRONG ABOUT THE DRAGON. HE WAS NOT ASLEEP.
"HE HAD AWAKENED THE INSTANT SHE WALKED INTO HIS LAIR. AND HE WAS WATCHING HER.
"WATCHING, AND WAITING, TALONS POISED TO STRIKE."

A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER...
I GUESS IT'S KINDA COOL IF I HAVE PSYCHIC POWERS OR WHATEVER.
JUST LIKE LAURANA'S ELVISH ABILITIES. SHE CAN SEE THINGS THAT NO ONE ELSE SEES, AND IT ALWAYS HELPS HER OUT WHEN SHE'S IN TROUBLE. LIKE THAT TIME SHE WAS TRAPPED IN THE DWARF RUINS.
MAYBE I CAN USE MY POWERS TO FIGHT CRIME AND STUFF.
TAKE THAT, EVIL DOER!
HEE HEE
OOH! OR MAYBE I CAN USE THEM TO WIN THE LOTTERY!
YEAH, ZOE'S RIGHT. IT'S JUST A GIFT. IT'S NO BIG...
...DEAL...?

THEY'RE JUST HARMLESS GHOSTIES. THEY CAN'T HURT ME.
THEY AREN'T EVEN SOLID. THEY'LL PASS RIGHT THROUGH ME. JUST LIKE ZOE SAID.
THEY'RE JUST--

AAAAAHHHH!
HELP!
SOMEBODY HELP ME!
HELP! HELP!
HOONNKK
WHA--?
NOOOO!
KRRSSHH
SKRREECH

SKRREEECH
KRASH
HUH?
I'M OKAY?
I'M OKAY! IT MISSED ME!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE... THOSE MONSTER THINGS?
IT'S TRUE.

GOTTA GET AWAY! GOTTA FIND SOMEPLACE--
=GASP=
GRRRRR
AIIEEEE!
WWHKSHH
HWUH!
WHOA!
K&N
K
RRRRRRRR

UMPH!
THMPSHH
UM...UM... UM...OH NO!
ZOE WAS SO WRONG! THESE THINGS ARE DEFINITELY SOLID!
UM...NICE DOGGIES?
GET BACK...STAY AWAY!
OW!
KRSHNK
PLEASE... JUST GO AWAY...
THUMK
WHA...?

WRAITHBORN.
TO BE CONTINUED IN WRAITHBORN #3!

FROM THE CREATOR OF LADY MECHANIKA
WRAITHBORN
REDUX
ISSUE THREE
APRIL 2016

FROM THE CREATOR OF LADY MECHANIKA
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THUMK
WHA...?

WRAITHBORN.

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SHNKK

PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T HURT ME...

STAY HERE.

WHA... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

THE...THE MONSTERS! DO YOU SEE THEM TOO? I'M NOT JUST IMAGINING THINGS?

THEY ARE THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT.

SHNKKKT

AND THEY ARE MINE.

SHNKK

SSHLPT

SHTK

SHNKKKT

NOW, WHO ARE YOU?
WHY DO YOU BEAR THE WRAITHBORN?
THE...THE WHAT? I DON'T KNOW...I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING!
WHAT ARE THOSE MONSTER THINGS? AND WHO ARE YOU?
I AM CALLED VALIN.
YOU NEED TO COME WITH ME. THE BROTHERHOOD WILL HELP YOU.
WHAT? NO WAY!
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITH YOU! I...I NEED TO GET HOME!
THE WRAITHBORN IS A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS NOT MEANT FOR YOU.
AS LONG AS YOU CARRY IT, THE CREATURES WILL HUNT YOU.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING! YOU... THEY...YOU'VE ALL GOT THE WRONG PERSON!
YOU MUST HAVE RECEIVED IT FROM BROTHER AEGEUS, THE KEEPER OF THE WRAITHBORN.
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN OUTFITTED AS I, BUT WITHOUT THE MASK.
UM...
HIS HEAD IS SHAVED, AND HE WEARS MARKINGS ON HIS FACE.
UM... MISTER?
MORE HOUNDS!

HHHRRAAA
HSSS
GGRRRRR
RRRAARRHHH!!

YOU MUST COME WITH ME!
THE BROTHERHOOD IS LEARNED IN THESE MATTERS. THEY WILL KNOW HOW TO TRANSFER THE WRAITHBORN.
ONCE IT IS REMOVED, THE CREATURES WILL STOP PURSUING YOU. YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL LIFE.
BUT... BUT NO ONE GAVE ME ANYTHING! THEY MUST BE AFTER YOU, AND I JUST GOT IN THE WAY!
NO. IT ISN'T ME THEY ARE AFTER.
HERE, TAKE THIS.
WHA...A SWORD? I...I DON'T KNOW HOW...
TAKE IT!
STAY BEHIND ME.
I WILL STOP THE HOUNDS.
AAAAHHHHHH...

SHNKKK
AAAHHHH!
SHNKKKT
THUD
SLLRKKK

THUD
SLHPPPLLKk
FFMP
UNGH...
KCHNK

STK
STK
STK
STK
STK
STK
THE WRAITHBORN.
SHNKK
SHNNK
AAAAAHHH...
CHILD!
AAAAAHHH
--WHA...?

CHILD, WAIT!
OPEN OPEN OPEN!
STK
STK
STK
STK
STK
STK
OH NO...
GRRRRR
SLIKKT

RRRAAARR!
HRRGH!
SHHKT
THAT WAS THE LAST OF THEM. BUT MORE...
I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE. I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
IT'S ALL A MISTAKE. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING! THEY CAN'T BE AFTER ME!
NOT ME...
MORE WILL BE COMING.

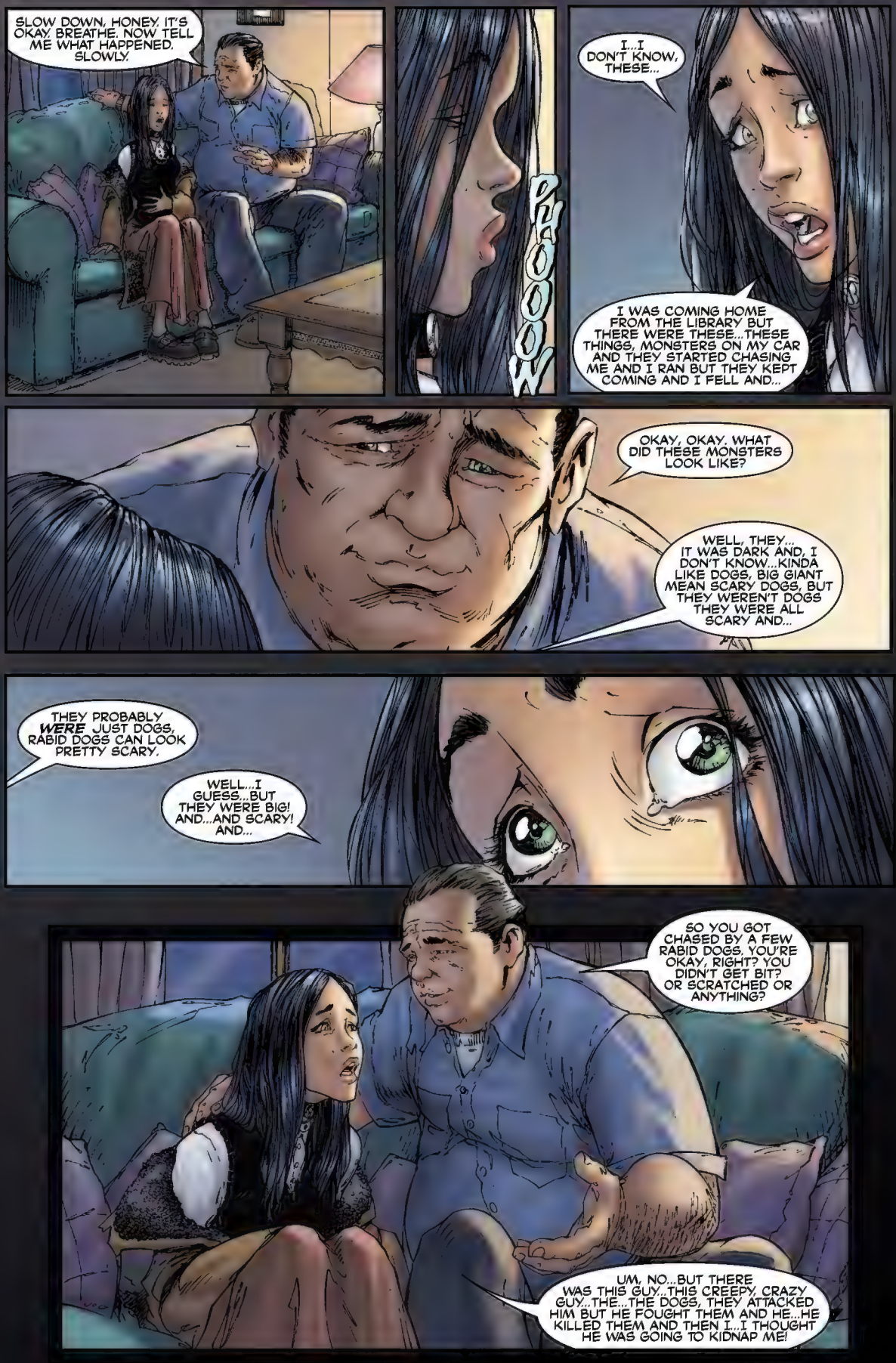
MEANWHILE...
MARINETTE CEMETERY
BRIJIT!
1881
THE MAÎTRESSE IS BUSY.
YOU CAN'T SEE HER NOW, KIARA.
OH, REALLY?

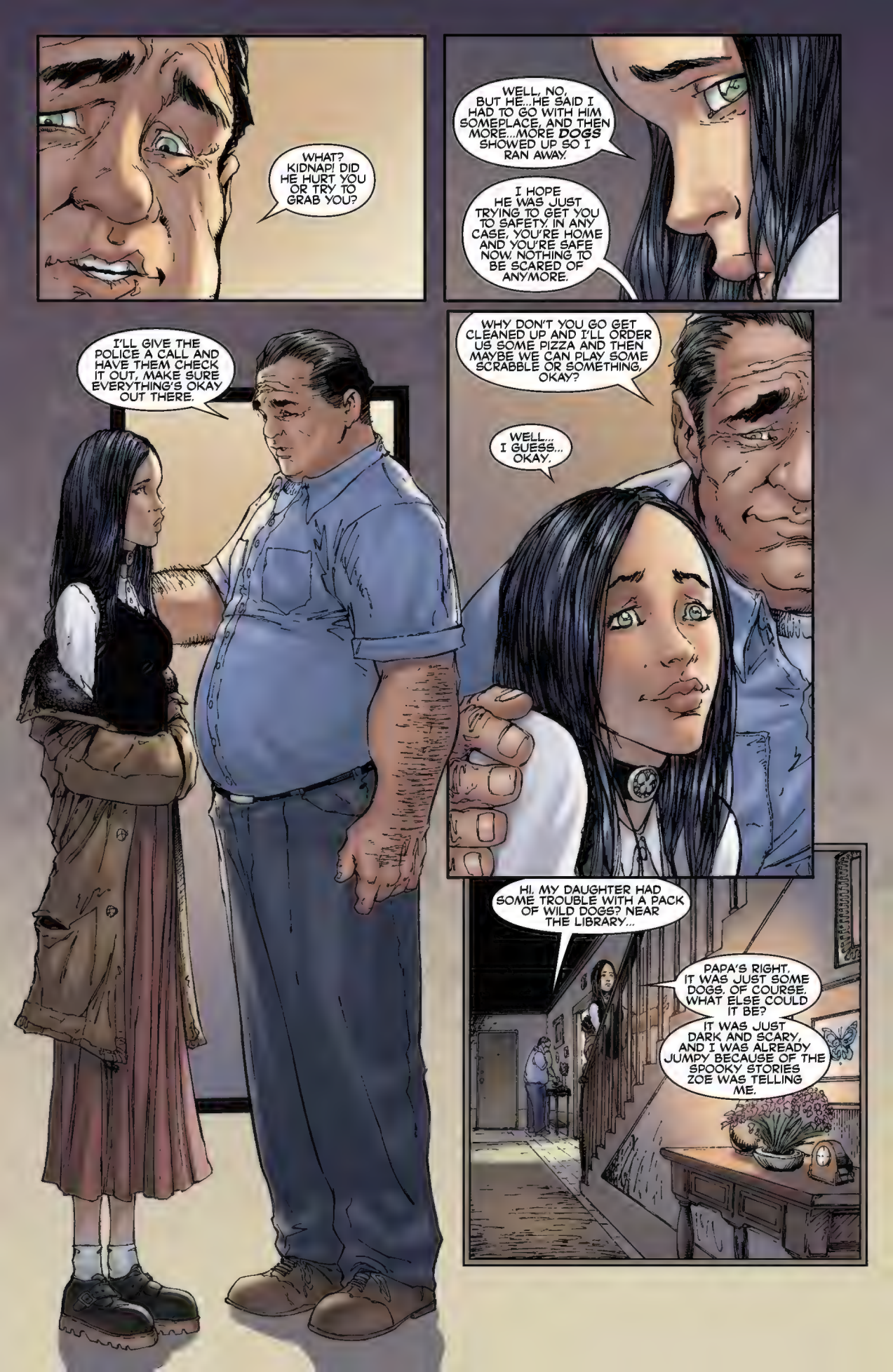
KTHUNK
UNGH
JENNIE!
BWOOOM
SPLATT
EEP!
EEP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING! ARE YOU CRAZY!
SQUISH
STAY AWAY, YOU PSYCHO! I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU!
SNKT
HUH?
AAAAAHHHH!
MY HAND! MY HAND!
BRIJIT!

WHERE IS THE WRAITHBORN?!
WE HAD A PERFECTLY FINE ARRANGEMENT--I FIND THE ARTIFACTS, YOU PAY ME MY FEE. WHY DID YOU INTERFERE THIS TIME? DID YOU THINK YOU COULD GET OUT OF PAYING ME?
I'M THE ONE WHO FOUND OUT ABOUT THE WRAITHBORN. I'M THE ONE WHO ARRANGED FOR IT TO COME HERE.
YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR ME! NOW GIVE ME MY PAYMENT!
UNGH...
WHOOSH
ARGH!
AH... AH... AH...
I DO AS I WISH, MORTAL!
I HAVE NOT YET ACQUIRED THE WRAITHBORN. IT HAS FOUND A NEW HOST: A HUMAN GIRL.
YOU SHALL RETRIEVE HER AND BRING HER TO ME.

YOU'VE RUINED ALL MY PLANS! I WOULD'VE GOTTEN IT SIMPLY, WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE, AND LEARNED ALL OF ITS SECRETS TOO!
THE PRICE WILL NOW BE HIGHER.
AARGH!
SHHLP
I SHALL GIFT YOU AS I SEE FIT.
THOSE WHO SERVE ME FAITHFULLY...
...ARE WELL REWARDED.
THOSE WHO DEFY ME
WHOOSH
THUNK
...PERISH. BRING ME THE WRAITHBORN AND BE CERTAIN YOU DO NOT SLAY THE GIRL. I NEED HER INTACT.
AS YOU SAY, MAITRESSE. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERY-THING.

MOORE HOME.
OMIGOD OMIGOD OMIGOD...
NO SUCH THING AS MONSTERS, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MONSTERS.
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY...NOTHING'S CHASING ME...HE ISN'T CHASING ME.
IT'S OKAY, I'M OKAY.
I'M HOME. I'M SAFE.
MELANIE?
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE LATE! I CALLED EVERYWHERE LOOKING FOR...
PAPA!
THESE...THESE MONSTER THINGS... AND THIS SCARY MAN...CHASING ME... FIGHTING AND THEY WOULDN'T STOP...AND OH, IT WAS JUST HORRIBLE...AND...


SLOW DOWN, HONEY. IT'S OKAY. BREATHE. NOW TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED. SLOWLY.
PHOOOW
I...I DON'T KNOW, THESE...
I WAS COMING HOME FROM THE LIBRARY BUT THERE WERE THESE...THESE THINGS, MONSTERS ON MY CAR AND THEY STARTED CHASING ME AND I RAN BUT THEY KEPT COMING AND I FELL AND...
OKAY, OKAY. WHAT DID THESE MONSTERS LOOK LIKE?
WELL, THEY... IT WAS DARK AND, I DON'T KNOW...KINDA LIKE DOGS, BIG GIANT MEAN SCARY DOGS, BUT THEY WEREN'T DOGS THEY WERE ALL SCARY AND...
THEY PROBABLY *WERE* JUST DOGS, RABID DOGS CAN LOOK PRETTY SCARY.
WELL...I GUESS...BUT THEY WERE BIG! AND...AND SCARY! AND...
SO YOU GOT CHASED BY A FEW RABID DOGS. YOU'RE OKAY, RIGHT? YOU DIDN'T GET BIT? OR SCRATCHED OR ANYTHING?
UM, NO...BUT THERE WAS THIS GUY...THIS CREEPY, CRAZY GUY...THE...THE DOGS, THEY ATTACKED HIM BUT HE FOUGHT THEM AND HE...HE KILLED THEM AND THEN I...I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KIDNAP ME!


WHAT? KIDNAP! DID HE HURT YOU OR TRY TO GRAB YOU?
WELL, NO, BUT HE...HE SAID I HAD TO GO WITH HIM SOMEPLACE, AND THEN MORE...MORE DOGS SHOWED UP SO I RAN AWAY.
I HOPE HE WAS JUST TRYING TO GET YOU TO SAFETY. IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE HOME AND YOU'RE SAFE NOW. NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF ANYMORE.
I'LL GIVE THE POLICE A CALL AND HAVE THEM CHECK IT OUT, MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S OKAY OUT THERE.
WHY DON'T YOU GO GET CLEANED UP AND I'LL ORDER US SOME PIZZA AND THEN MAYBE WE CAN PLAY SOME SCRABBLE OR SOMETHING, OKAY?
WELL... I GUESS... OKAY.
HI. MY DAUGHTER HAD SOME TROUBLE WITH A PACK OF WILD DOGS? NEAR THE LIBRARY...
PAPA'S RIGHT. IT WAS JUST SOME DOGS. OF COURSE. WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
IT WAS JUST DARK AND SCARY, AND I WAS ALREADY JUMPY BECAUSE OF THE SPOOKY STORIES ZOE WAS TELLING ME.

YEAH, JUST CHASED BY SOME DOGS. NO BIG DEAL.
I'M HOME NOW. I'M SAFE.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MONSTERS.
HUH?
SHING
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS...

NO. NOT AGAIN.
THIS ISN'T REAL...IT'S ONLY A DREAM...
MELANIE, WAKE UP! WAKE UP, MELANIE!
PLEASE JUST BE A BAD DREAM.
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, LET THIS WHOLE AWFUL DAY BE A DREAM.
PLEASE...
BUT IT WASN'T A DREAM.
IT WAS ALL TOO REAL.
A LIVING NIGHTMARE FROM WHICH I'D NEVER, EVER WAKE.
TO BE CONTINUED IN WRAITHBORN #4!

FROM THE CREATOR OF LADY MECHANIKA
WRAITHBORN
REDUX
ISSUE FOUR
JUNE 2016

FROM THE CREATOR OF LADY MECHANIKA
WRAITHBORN
REDUX
martegod
ISSUE FOUR
JUNE 2016

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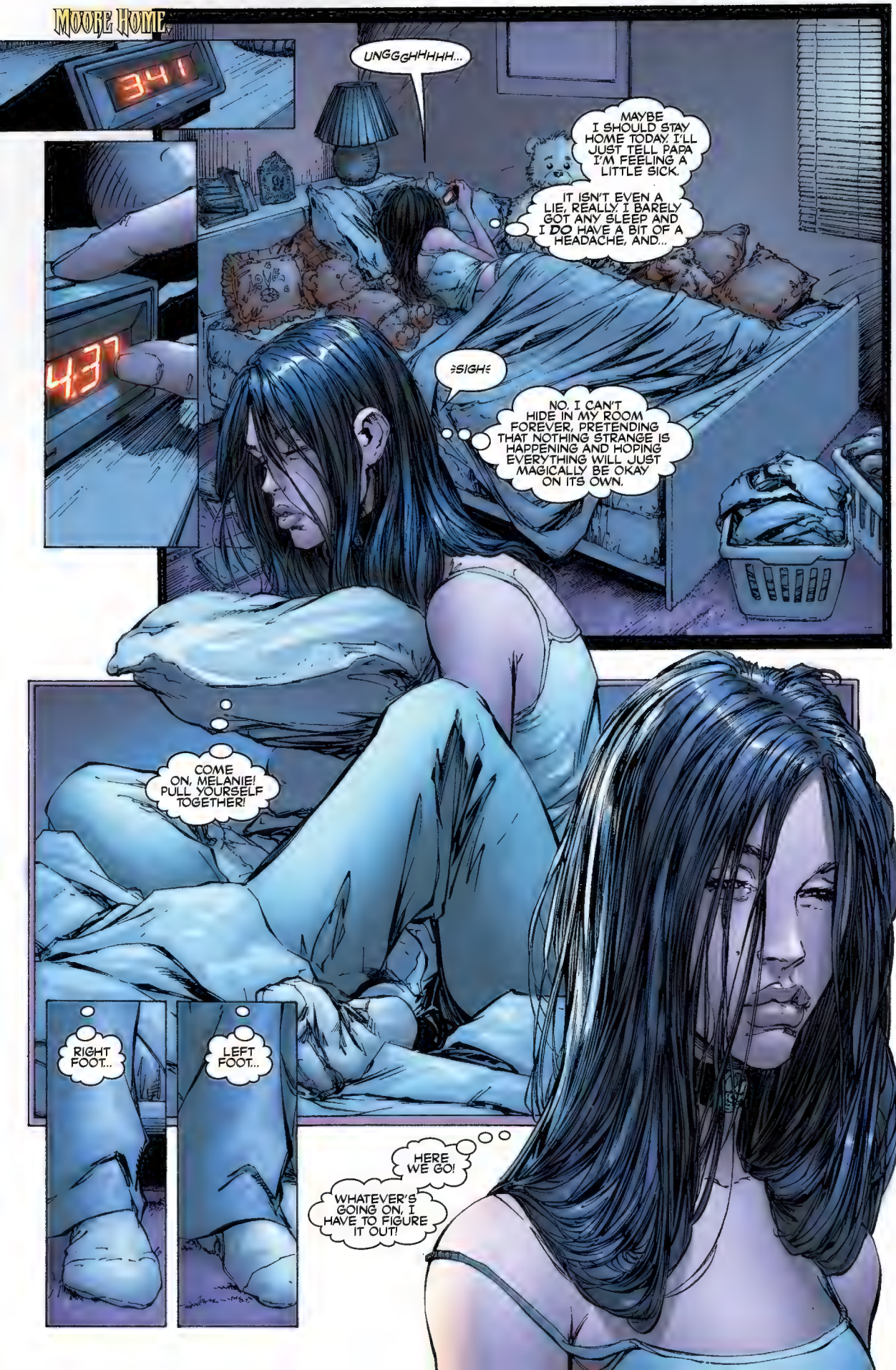
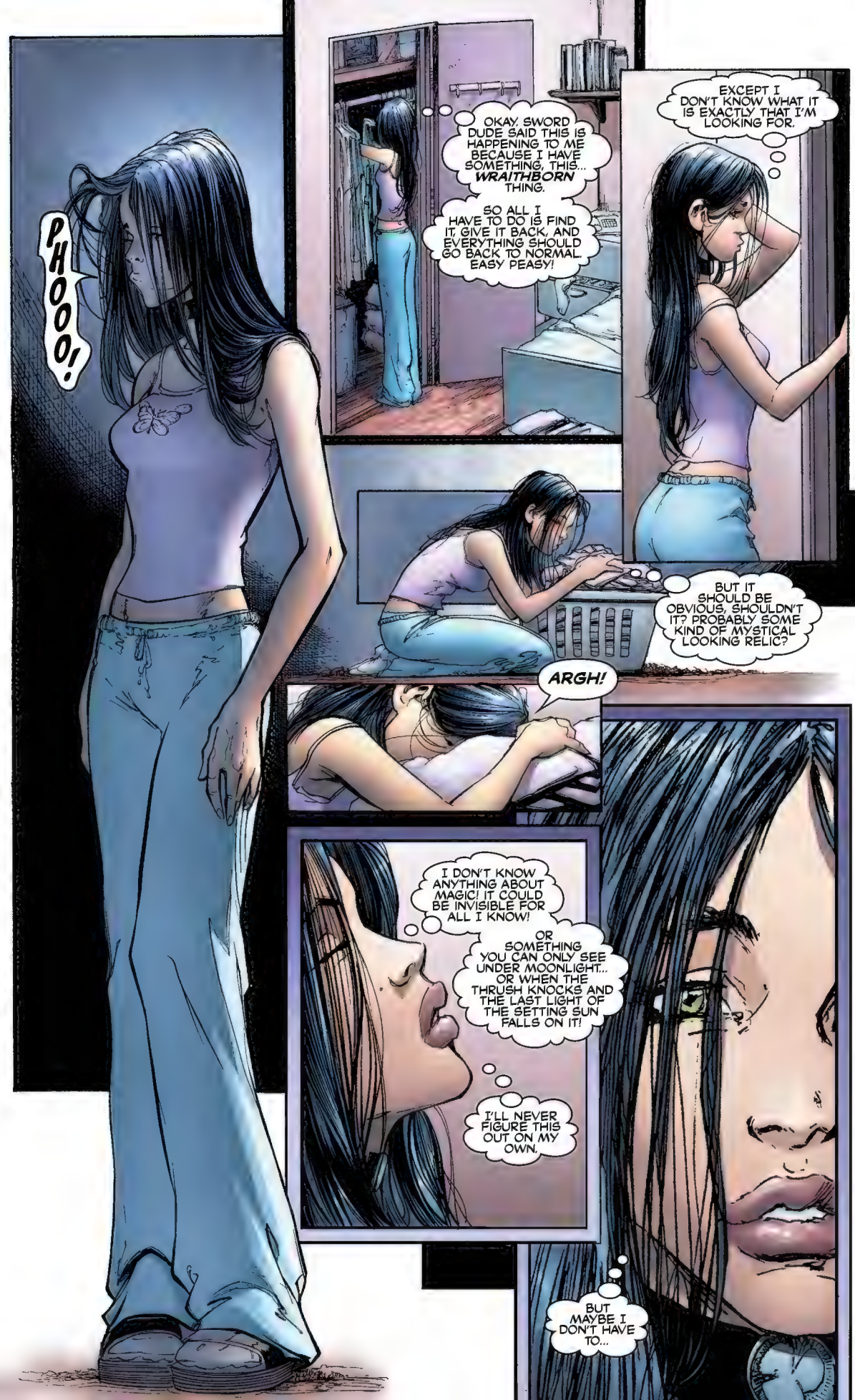
MARIDETTE CEMETERY.
SO. THE WRAITHBORN IS NOT YET MINE.
YOUNG KIARA DISOBEYED ME. SHE WILL BE PUNISHED.
BUT FIRST IT SEEMS I SHALL NEED A NEW CHAMPION AFTER ALL.
GIRLS. FIND ME SOMEONE SUITABLE. SOMEONE STRONG AND POWERFUL. MY CHAMPION CANNOT BE FORGED FROM A LIFELESS CORPSE.
YES, MAITRESSE.
WE KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THE WRAITHBORN HAS MANAGED TO DESTROY MY HOUNDS.
NO MATTER. I SHALL CREATE MORE.
MANY MORE.
KALEB.
NO, NOOOO! BRIJIT!
POWER YOU WASSTE ON HOUNDS? MUSSST SAAVE POWER FOR CHAAMPION! HHRMM!

I STILL CONTROL PLENTY OF MAGIC, KALFO, EVEN IN THIS MORTAL SHELL.
I SHALL GIFT MY NEW CHAMPION WITH EVEN GREATER POWER THAN THE LAST, AND STILL HAVE MAGIC TO SPARE.
BUT NOW, MY HOUNDS.
BRUJEEET!
THEY ARE NECESSARY.
KRAK
FFT
FFT
FFT
UNGHH
GRRRGH
KRAK
KRAK
KRIK
KRAK

GRRR
BRRAH! FOOOLISHNESSS!
HHSSS
WRAAAITHBORN ISSS NECESSSARY!
GRRR
HSSS
A SIMPLE TASK NOW. THE HOST IS BUT A CHILD.
KLK THMP
KLK THMP
KLK THMP
HRRAH! TOO WEEAK EVEN FOR CHILD WRAITHBORN! AND I CANN'TTT HELP YOU HEEERE!
I DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR HELP.
WHAT CAN A MERE CHILD DO AGAINST THE VAST FORCES OF BRRIT? DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THIS, KALFU. THE WRAITHBORN IS ALREADY OURS.

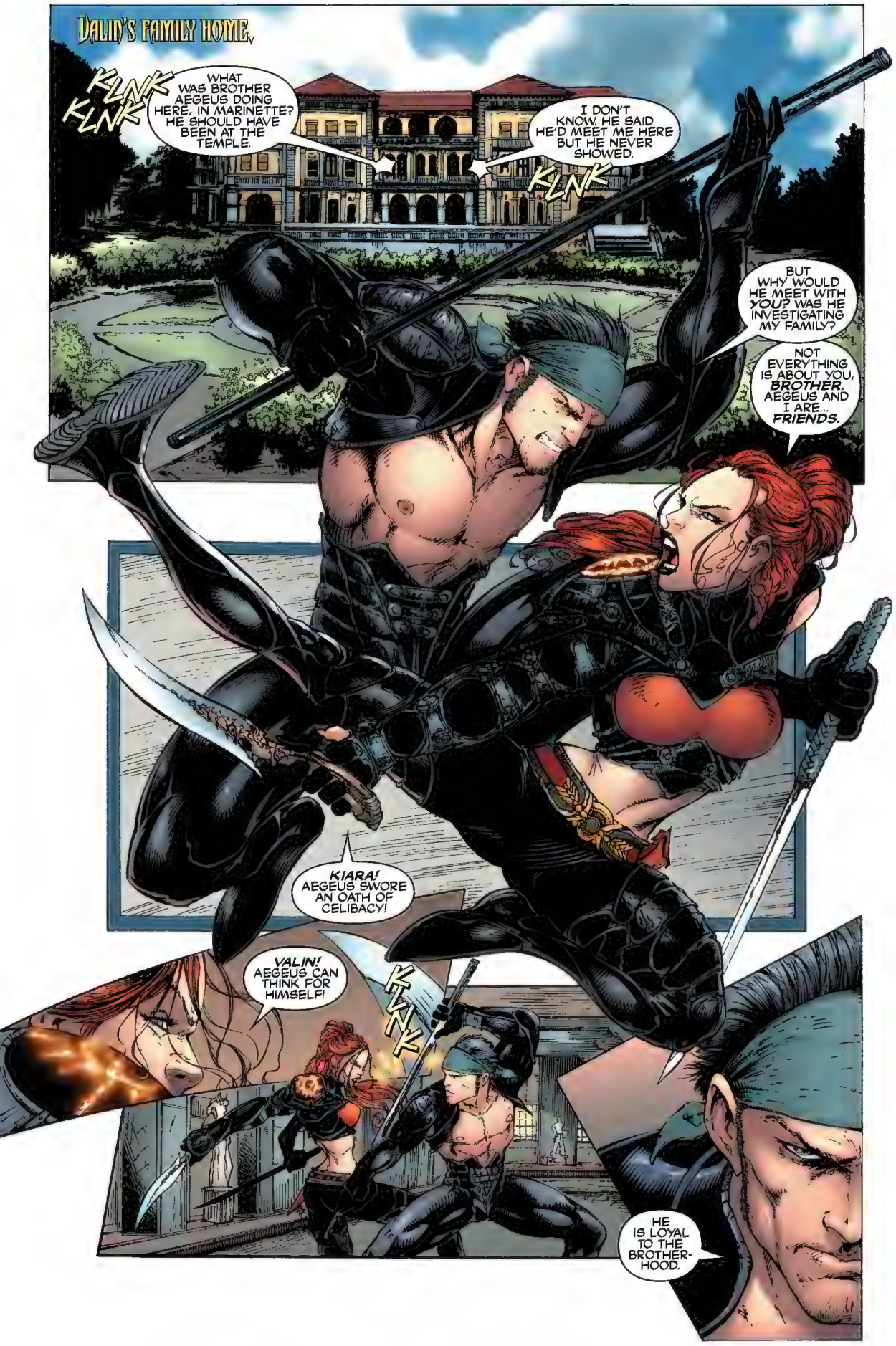

3:41
UNGGGHHHHH...
MAYBE I SHOULD STAY HOME TODAY. I'LL JUST TELL PAPA I'M FEELING A LITTLE SICK.
IT ISN'T EVEN A LIE, REALLY. I BARELY GOT ANY SLEEP AND I DO HAVE A BIT OF A HEADACHE, AND...
4:37
=SIGH=
NO. I CAN'T HIDE IN MY ROOM FOREVER, PRETENDING THAT NOTHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING AND HOPING EVERYTHING WILL JUST MAGICALLY BE OKAY ON ITS OWN.
COME ON, MELANIE! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
RIGHT FOOT...
LEFT FOOT...
HERE WE GO!
WHATEVER'S GOING ON, I HAVE TO FIGURE IT OUT!


PHOOO!
OKAY. SWORD DUDE SAID THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING, THIS... WRAITHBORN THING.
SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND IT, GIVE IT BACK, AND EVERYTHING SHOULD GO BACK TO NORMAL. EASY PEASY!
EXCEPT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS EXACTLY THAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
BUT IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS, SHOULDN'T IT? PROBABLY SOME KIND OF MYSTICAL LOOKING RELIC?
ARGH!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MAGIC! IT COULD BE INVISIBLE FOR ALL I KNOW!
OR SOMETHING YOU CAN ONLY SEE UNDER MOONLIGHT... OR WHEN THE THRUSH KNOCKS AND THE LAST LIGHT OF THE SETTING SUN FALLS ON IT!
I'LL NEVER FIGURE THIS OUT ON MY OWN.
BUT MAYBE I DON'T HAVE TO...

LATER
ZOE...
...AND I ASKED HIM WHAT HE'D BEEN DOING 'CUZ THIS WAS LIKE THE SECOND TIME I'VE CAUGHT HIM COMING HOME LATE BUT HE JUST SAYS, "DON'T TELL GRAMS" AND GOES UP TO HIS ROOM.
HEE HEE! MAYBE YOUR BRO'S FINALLY GOT A GIRLFRIEND!
I DON'T THINK SO. I ASKED HIM IF HE WAS GONNA GO TO THE STREET FAIR AND OH, THAT REMINDS ME, DO YOU GUYS WANNA GO TO THE STREET FAIR TONIGHT?
I SAW THEM SETTING STUFF UP YESTERDAY AND I THINK IT'LL BE PRETTY FUN. I HOPE THEY HAVE COTTON CANDY, I LOVE--
--OH, THERE'S ARON! I SHOULD GO AND SEE IF HE WANTS TO COME TOO! CATCH Y'ALL LATER!
UM... ZOE?
HEY, ARON! WAIT UP!
OH, I DON'T KNOW... SHE'S BUSY. MAYBE I'LL JUST TRY HER AT LUNCH OR--

SMAK
#@$%! MY NEW JACKET!
I...I'M SORRY, I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
YOU STUPID #@$%! WHAT THE #@$%'S WRONG WITH YOU?! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU #@$%ING RUINED MY LETTERMAN JACKET! AND ON GAME DAY TOO!
YOU STUPID #@$%! I'M SO GONNA--
HEY!
LEAVE HER ALONE!
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? GOING AROUND TERRORIZING EVERYONE JUST 'CUZ YOU'RE MR. BIG-MAN-FOOTBALL-HOTSHOT NOW!
I REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE SITTING AROUND EATING YOUR OWN BOOGERS, WENDELL!
WEREN'T SO COOL THEN, WERE YA?! REMEMBER ALL THE BULLIES THAT USED TO PICK ON YOU?
REMEMBER ALL THE WEDGIES AND THE HANGING WEDGIES AND THE SUPER GIANT ATOMIC WEDGIES?
AND REMEMBER WHO TOOK CARE OF THE BULLIES FOR YA? DO YA? WELL DON'T YOU FORGET IT!
OH, AND IF I EVER CATCH YOU BOTHERING MELANIE AGAIN, YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME!
JUST LIKE YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS IN THIRD GRADE! YOU GOT THAT, BUD?
PSHAW... WHATEVER...
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU GO ON NOW. HAVE A NICE DAY.
WOW, ZOE, THANKS. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT. AREN'T YOU SCARED HE'S GONNA, I DUNNO, COME AFTER YOU NOW OR SOMETHING?
WHO, BUD? HA! HE SHOULD BE SCARED I'M GONNA COME AFTER HIM!

BESIDES, WHAT KIND OF FRIEND WOULD I BE IF I JUST STOOD THERE AND WATCHED HIM BEAT ON YOU, ESPECIALLY AFTER YOU JUST SAVED MY BUTT THE OTHER DAY AT WORK!
WE GOTTA TOUGHEN YOU UP, CHER! NO USE RUNNING SCARED ALL THE TIME.
STAND UP FOR YOURSELF, LET PEOPLE KNOW THEY CAN'T PUSH YOU AROUND! DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE HERE TO BACK YOU UP!
SEE YA LATER!
WAIT, ZOE?
YEAH? WHAT'S UP, SUG?
I, UM, I WANTED TO ASK YOU...I HAD SOME... WEIRD STUFF HAPPEN TO ME YESTERDAY.
OH YEAH RIGHT, WITH THE GHOSTIES! YOU STILL SCARED OF THEM, HON? 'CUZ I TOLD YA THEY'RE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. THEY JUST--
NO, NO, IT'S NOT JUST THAT, THERE WAS SOME OTHER... STUFF...HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF SOMETHING CALLED THE *WRAITHBORN?*
WRAITHBORN? NO, I DON'T THINK SO. WHAT IS THAT? SOME KIND OF BOOK OR SOMETHING, 'CUZ I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER--
WHAT ABOUT *THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT?*
OH, YEAH, SURE!
WHAT? YOU HAVE?
OF COURSE! BRIJIT IS A VOODOO GODDESS, VERY POWERFUL, AND SHE'S ALWAYS ATTENDED BY A PACK OF HOUNDS, THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT.
SO WHERE'D YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT?
THERE'S THIS GREAT DRAWING OF HER IN THIS BOOK AT GRAMS'S STORE--YOU KNOW MY GRAMS HAS GOT AN OCCULT SUPPLIES SHOP, RIGHT?--AND I REMEMBER IT 'CUZ IN IT SHE'S WEARING THIS REALLY COOL OUTFIT SO I WANTED TO DRESS UP LIKE HER FOR HALLOWEEN A COUPLE YEARS AGO BUT GRAMS WOULDN'T LET ME 'CUZ SHE SAID I SHOULDN'T MOCK THE LOA OR WHATEVER.


VALIN'S FAMILY HOME
KLNK KLNK
WHAT WAS BROTHER AEGEUS DOING HERE, IN MARINETTE? HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE TEMPLE.
I DON'T KNOW. HE SAID HE'D MEET ME HERE BUT HE NEVER SHOWED.
KLNK
BUT WHY WOULD HE MEET WITH YOU? WAS HE INVESTIGATING MY FAMILY?
NOT EVERYTHING IS ABOUT YOU, BROTHER. AEGEUS AND I ARE... FRIENDS.
KIARA! AEGEUS SWORE AN OATH OF CELIBACY!
VALIN! AEGEUS CAN THINK FOR HIMSELF!
KLNK
HE IS LOYAL TO THE BROTHER-HOOD.

DID I SAY OTHERWISE?
LOYALTY DOESN'T REQUIRE BLIND OBEDIENCE, LITTLE BROTHER. IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW EVERY SINGLE RULE HANDED DOWN BY THOSE POMPOUS OLD MISOGYNISTS, THAT'S YOUR PREROGATIVE.
AEGEUS HAS A MIND OF HIS OWN. YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM HIS EXAMPLE.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN "FRIENDS"? WAS IT BEFORE... MORE THAN THREE MONTHS AGO?
YOU MEAN BEFORE YOU WERE CHOSEN AS THE NEXT HEIR TO THE WRAITHBORN?
THE WRAITHBORN?! HE SHOULD NOT HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ABOUT THAT! THAT IS A ZANSHIM SECRET!
OH, LIGHTEN UP. YOU'VE BECOME WAY TOO UPTIGHT.

HYUH!
UNGH...
AND YOU NEED MORE DISCIPLINE.
SPARE ME YOUR PATRONIZING ZANSHIN PSYCHO-BABBLE.
THWACK
UNGH...

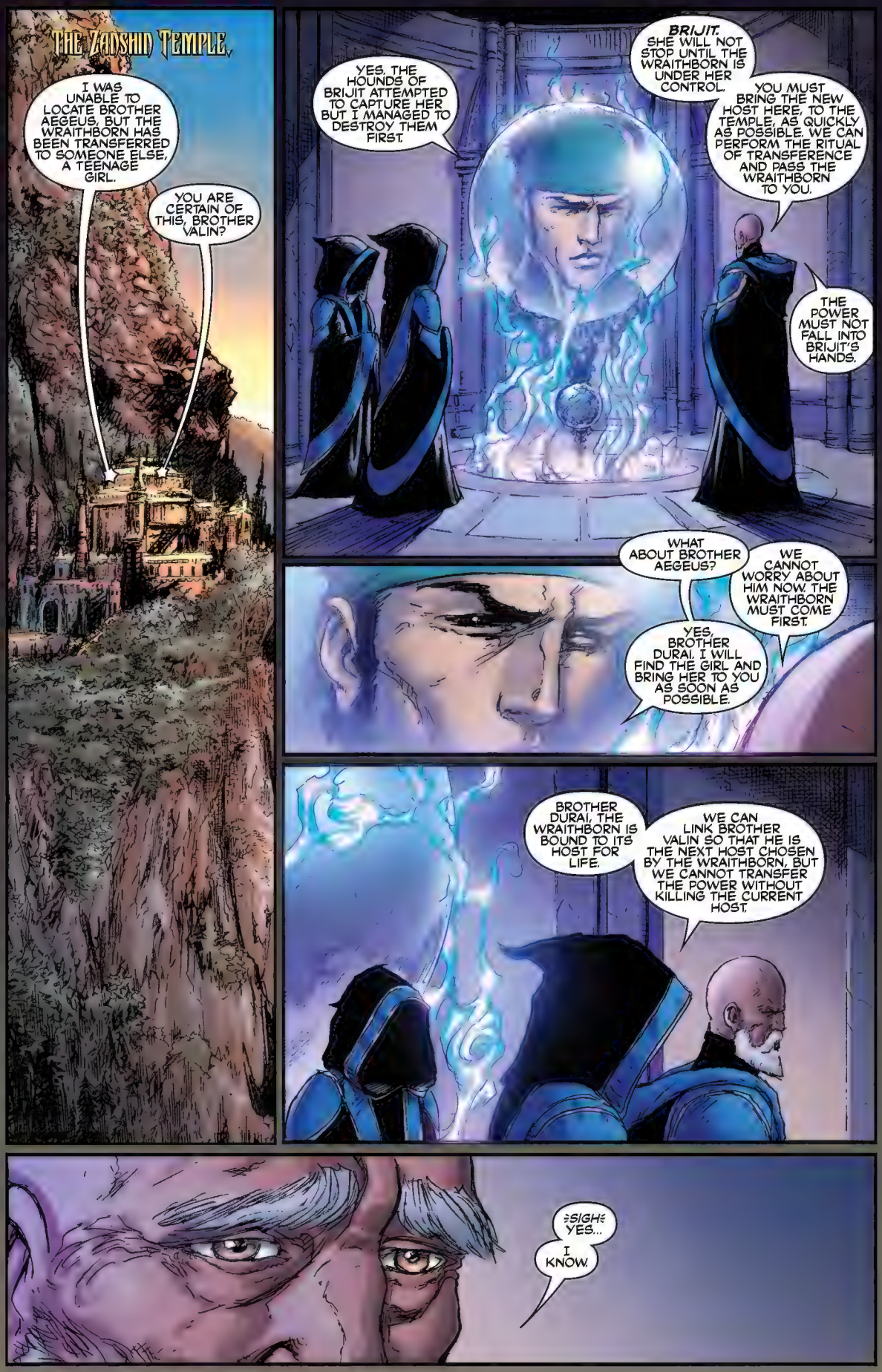
I DON'T NEED ANY OF THEIR ANTIQUATED TEACHINGS.
FTHUMP
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? A ZANSHIN BROTHER, CHOSEN PARAGON OF THE BROTHERHOOD, BESTED BY A WOMAN.
THUD
GOOD JOB. YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER SINCE LAST WE SPARRED. HAS AEGEUS BEEN HELPING YOU?
:HUMPH: NO. NOT AEGEUS.
SHNK
CHNK
I FOUND A NEW ...TEACHER.

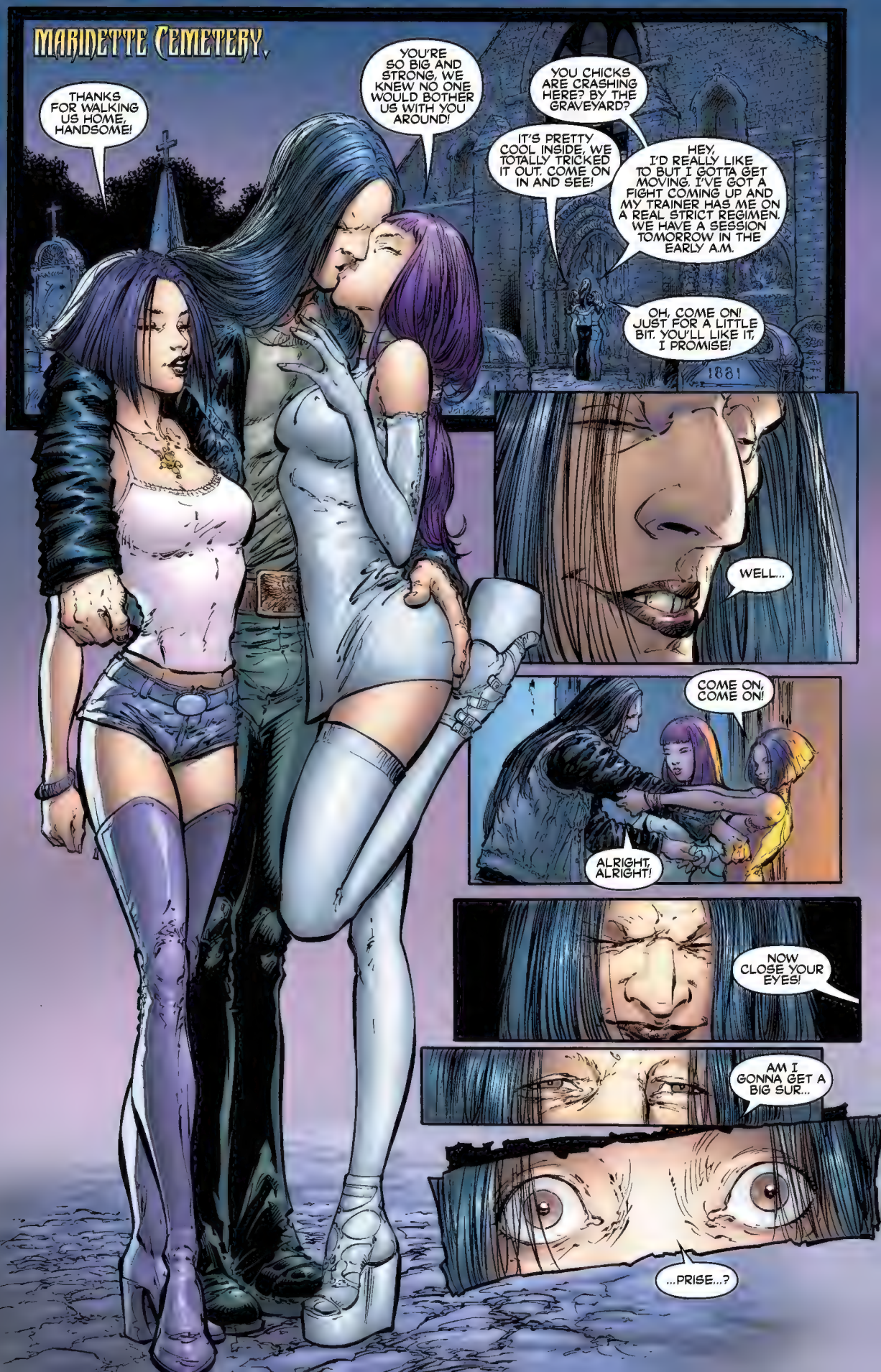
THE OCCULT STORE, MARASA.
SO THIS IS GRAMS'S STORE! IT'S SO WAY COOL LIVING HERE-- NOT THAT WE ACTUALLY LIVE IN THE STORE, WE LIVE IN THE APARTMENT UPSTAIRS, DUH!
AND WAIT TILL YOU MEET GRAMS! SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT MAGIC, SHE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU, YOU'LL SEE.
OH, LOOK! CHECK OUT THIS VOODOO DOLL! ISN'T IT JUST ADORABLE!
MAYBE WE CAN PUT A PICTURE OF BUD IN IT AND STICK HIM WITH NEEDLES!
NO WAY! I DON'T WANT TO...
RELAX, IT ISN'T REAL. IT'S JUST CHEAP NOVELTY JUNK FOR THE TOURISTS! REAL VOODOO PRACTITIONERS DON'T STICK PINS IN DOLLS, YOU KNOW!
SO THIS IS ALL FAKE?
CLOSED
WELL, MOST OF THESE TRINKETS UP FRONT ARE. YOU CAN'T BUY REAL POWER IN A STORE.
BUT GRAMS STOCKS SUPPLIES AND STUFF FOR THE REAL *HOUNGANS* AND *MAMBOS* THAT COME IN. HERBS AND POWDERS AND OILS, ATHAMES AND CHALICES FOR THE WICCANS, OR WANNA-BE WICCANS-- WE GET A LOT OF THOSE-- BUT IT'S OKAY, ALL THIS STUFF IS HARMLESS BY ITSELF.
YOU SAID THERE'S A PICTURE HERE SHOWING THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT?
CLO

OH, YEAH! THERE'S TONS OF STUFF ABOUT BRIJIT IN HERE. SHE'S WELL KNOWN IN THE VOODOO WORLD.
HERE, THIS IS THE BOOK I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT.
SEE? THIS IS THE LOA BRIJIT, GODDESS OF THE CEMETERIES, MISTRESS OF BLACK MAGIC.
"SHE HOLDS THE POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH, AND CAN RAISE THE DEAD, TURNING THEM INTO MINDLESS ZOMBIES THAT FOLLOW HER BIDDING."
MY BROTHER WAS GOING TO DRESS UP LIKE THIS GUY, "KALFU, LORD OF THE CROSSROADS, KEEPER OF THE GATES BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND THE SPIRIT WORLD."
A VERY, VERY DANGEROUS LOA. YOU DON'T WANT TO MESS WITH HIM.
BUT YOU WANTED TO DRESS UP LIKE THEM?
OH, THAT'S JUST FOR FUN! IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING. IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE ACTUALLY CALLING THEM FORTH OR WHATEVER.
YOU CAN'T ACCIDENTALLY CONJURE A GOD! THAT'S JUST SILLY!
BUT LOOK HERE, THESE ARE THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT.
HMMM... THEY DON'T LOOK AT ALL LIKE THE MONSTERS THAT ATTACKED ME.

NO? GOOD. THAT GUY WAS PROBABLY JUST MAKING STUFF UP, TRYING TO SOUND COOL OR WHATEVER.
I KNEW WHAT YOU SAW COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT, NOT IF THEY WERE KNOCKING OVER MAILBOXES AND ALL. LOA CAN'T HAVE ACTUAL PHYSICAL FORMS!
OH, BUT THEY CAN.
GRAMS! THERE YOU ARE! THIS IS MY FRIEND MELANIE.
GRAMS IS A GREAT AND POWERFUL *MAMBO!* SHE CAN HELP YOU! SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING!
MY GRANDDAUGHTER EXAGGERATES. I'M JUST AN OLD HEALER. ZOE AND HER BROTHER ARE MORE GIFTED THAN ME. MARASA, TWINS, ARE OFTEN VERY POWERFUL.
SO YOU THINK YOU SAW THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW. THAT'S WHAT SWORD DUDE CALLED THEM.
"*SWORD DUDE?*" TELL ME WHAT YOU SAW.

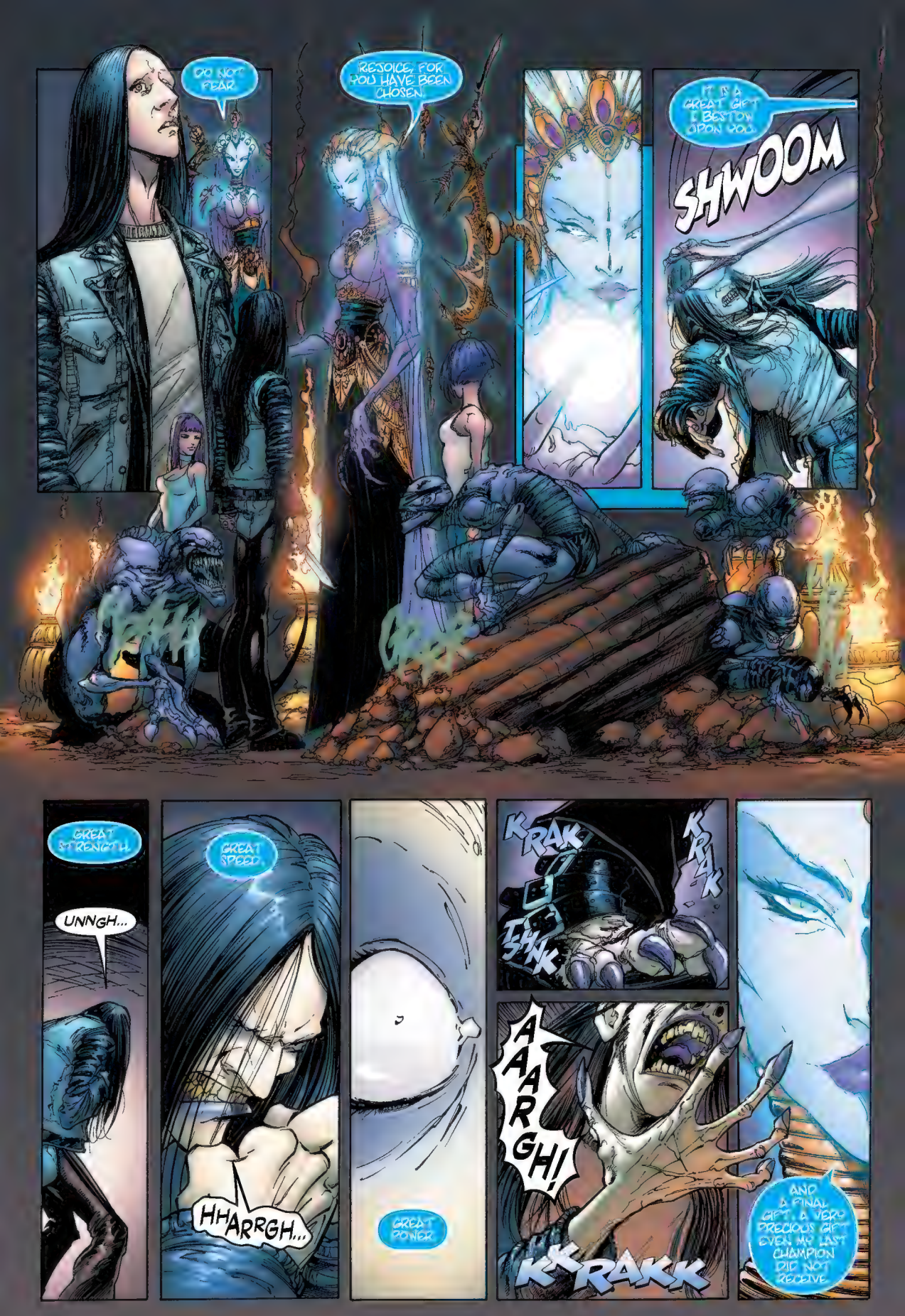
IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY. I WAS ATTACKED BY THESE...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE! MONSTERS. KINDA LIKE DOGS, BUT NOT DOGS!
AND THEN THIS MAN...THIS WEIRDO GUY WITH SWORDS AND A MASK, HE SHOWED UP AND FOUGHT THEM AND KILLED THEM. HE SAID THEY WERE THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT, AND THAT THEY WERE AFTER ME BECAUSE I HAD SOMETHING THEY WANTED.
SOMETHING HE CALLED THE WRAITHBORN.
YOU EVER HEARD OF THAT, GRAMS?
HMMM... WRAITHBORN...
NO. BUT THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT HAVE BEEN SEEN BEFORE.
IF WHAT THIS MAN SAYS IS TRUE, THEN SOMEONE HAS SUMMONED THE GREAT LOA MAÎTRESSE BRIJIT...
...AND SHE IS SENDING OUT HER HOUNDS TO FIND THIS OBJECT YOU BEAR.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING! I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!
CAN...CAN YOU HELP ME? PLEASE...I DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE TO TURN TO!
IF YOU WISH TO BE FREE OF IT, YOU MUST FIND THIS WRAITHBORN ARTIFACT AND PASS IT ON TO SOMEONE ELSE. BUT YOU MUST NOT GIVE IT TO JUST ANYONE!
IF IT TRULY IS AN OBJECT OF POWER, IT MUST NOT FALL TO THOSE WHO WOULD DO ILL. I CANNOT TAKE IT, FOR I ALONE DO NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO WITHSTAND BRIJIT, AND I WILL NOT ENDANGER MY FAMILY AGAIN. BUT PERHAPS I CAN FIND SOMEONE WILLING.
I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP YOU, BUT WE MUST HURRY!
THE GODDESS BRIJIT IS NOT KNOWN FOR PATIENCE...


THE ZADSHIN TEMPLE.
I WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE BROTHER AEGEUS, BUT THE WRAITHBORN HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SOMEONE ELSE, A TEENAGE GIRL.
YOU ARE CERTAIN OF THIS, BROTHER VALIN?
YES. THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT ATTEMPTED TO CAPTURE HER BUT I MANAGED TO DESTROY THEM FIRST.
BRIJIT. SHE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL THE WRAITHBORN IS UNDER HER CONTROL.
YOU MUST BRING THE NEW HOST HERE, TO THE TEMPLE, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WE CAN PERFORM THE RITUAL OF TRANSFERENCE AND PASS THE WRAITHBORN TO YOU.
THE POWER MUST NOT FALL INTO BRIJIT'S HANDS.
WHAT ABOUT BROTHER AEGEUS?
WE CANNOT WORRY ABOUT HIM NOW. THE WRAITHBORN MUST COME FIRST.
YES, BROTHER DURAI. I WILL FIND THE GIRL AND BRING HER TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BROTHER DURAI, THE WRAITHBORN IS BOUND TO ITS HOST FOR LIFE.
WE CAN LINK BROTHER VALIN SO THAT HE IS THE NEXT HOST CHOSEN BY THE WRAITHBORN, BUT WE CANNOT TRANSFER THE POWER WITHOUT KILLING THE CURRENT HOST.
=SIGH= YES... I KNOW.


MARIDETTE CEMETERY.
THANKS FOR WALKING US HOME, HANDSOME!
YOU'RE SO BIG AND STRONG, WE KNEW NO ONE WOULD BOTHER US WITH YOU AROUND!
YOU CHICKS ARE CRASHING HERE? BY THE GRAVEYARD?
IT'S PRETTY COOL INSIDE, WE TOTALLY TRICKED IT OUT. COME ON IN AND SEE!
HEY, I'D REALLY LIKE TO BUT I GOTTA GET MOVING. I'VE GOT A FIGHT COMING UP AND MY TRAINER HAS ME ON A REAL STRICT REGIMEN. WE HAVE A SESSION TOMORROW IN THE EARLY A.M.
OH, COME ON! JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT. YOU'LL LIKE IT, I PROMISE!
1881
WELL...
COME ON, COME ON!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT!
NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES!
AM I GONNA GET A BIG SUR...
...PRISE...?

THIS IS THE MAITRESSE BRIJIT. SHE WILL BE YOUR MASTER NOW.
WELCOME
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME

WHAT? WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE? AND WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE...THINGS?
SCREW THIS! YOU GIRLS ARE ON YOUR OWN. I'M OUTTA HERE!
NO GOD BELONG TO ME NOW. COME, KNEEL BEFORE ME AND RECEIVE MY BLESSING.
I DON'T BELONG TO NO ONE!
OUTTA MY WAY!
YES. HE WILL MAKE A PERFECT CHAMPION.
I AIN'T GONNA--
RELAX.
HUH?


DO NOT FEAR.
REJOICE, FOR YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.
IT IS A GREAT GIFT I BESTOW UPON YOU.
SHWOOM
GREAT STRENGTH.
UNNGH...
GREAT SPEED.
HHARRGH...
GREAT POWER.
KRAK
KRAK
SHNK
AARGH!
KKRAKK
AND A FINAL GIFT. A VERY PRECIOUS GIFT EVEN MY LAST CHAMPION DID NOT RECEIVE.

YOUR VERY LIFE CONNECTED TO MINE.
WHAT HURTS YOU SUFFER, I WILL HEAL.
SO LONG AS I ABIDE HERE, YOUR LIFE CANNOT BE TAKEN.
YOU ARE INVINCIBLE.
AND NOW, I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU, MY CHAMPION.
GRRR...
WRAITHBORN!
TO BE CONTINUED IN WRAITHBORN #5!

FROM THE CREATOR OF LADY MECHANIKA
WRAITHBORN
REDUX
ISSUE FIVE
JULY 2016

FROM THE CREATOR OF LADY MECH
WRAITHBOY
REDUX
ISSUE FIVE
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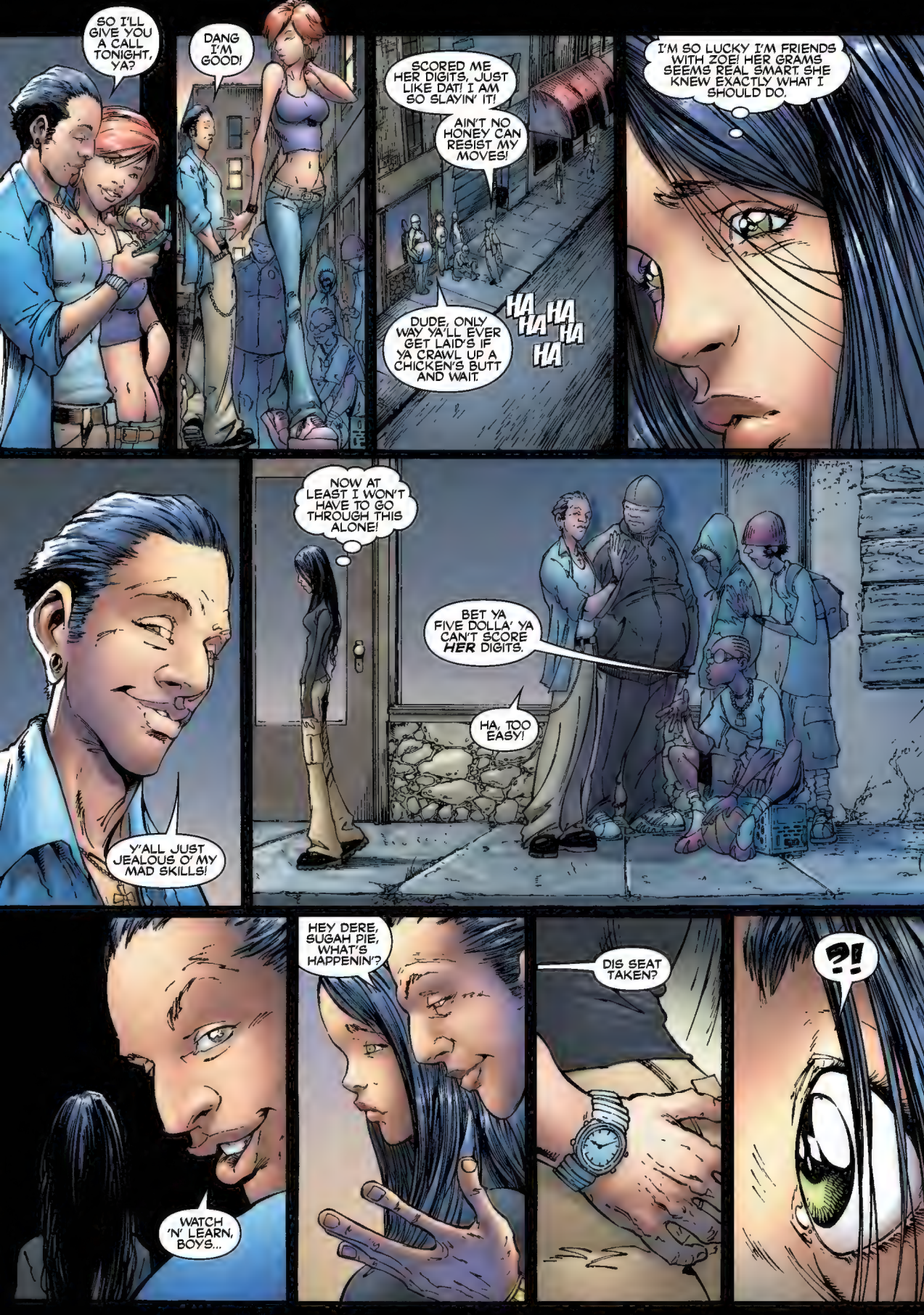
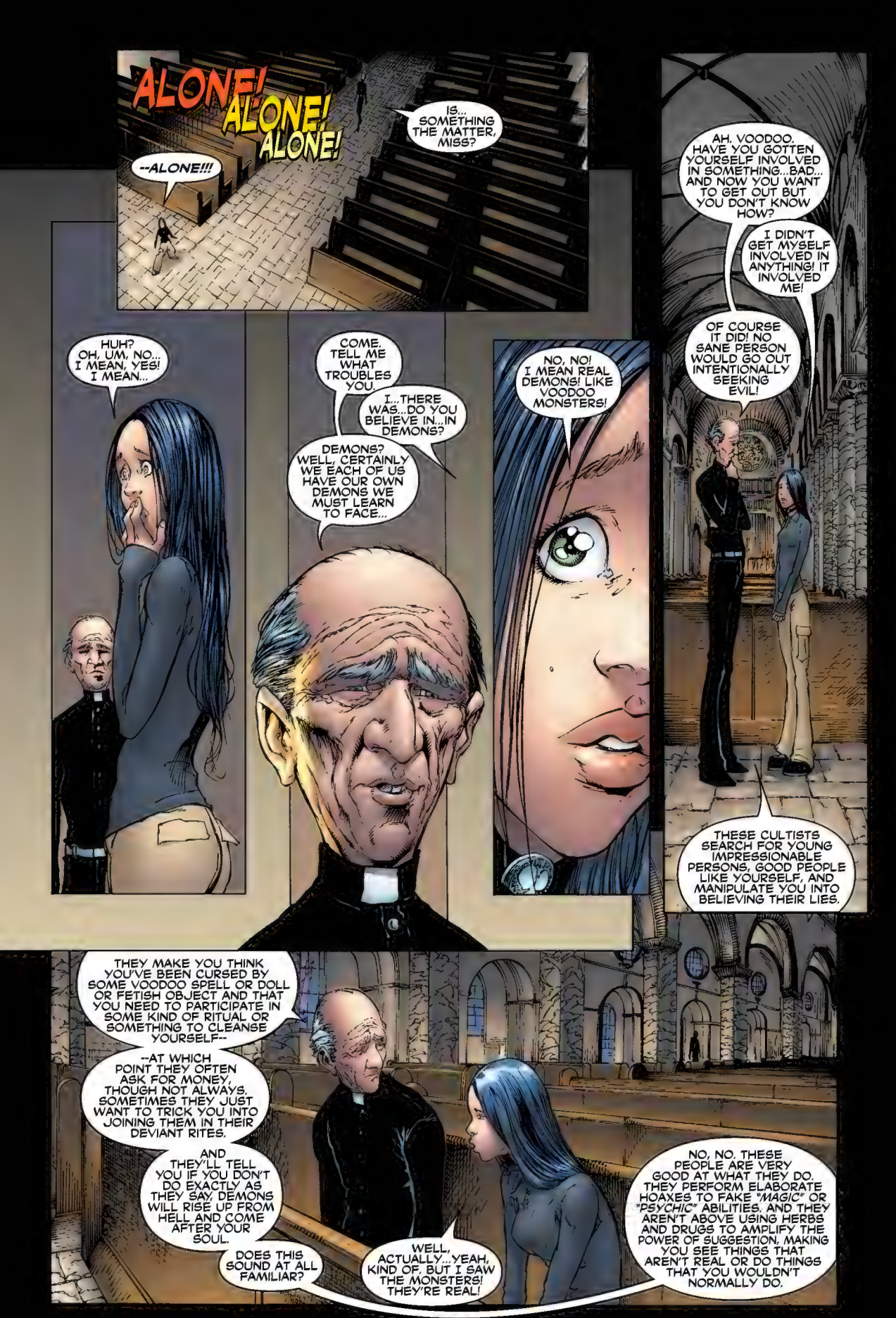
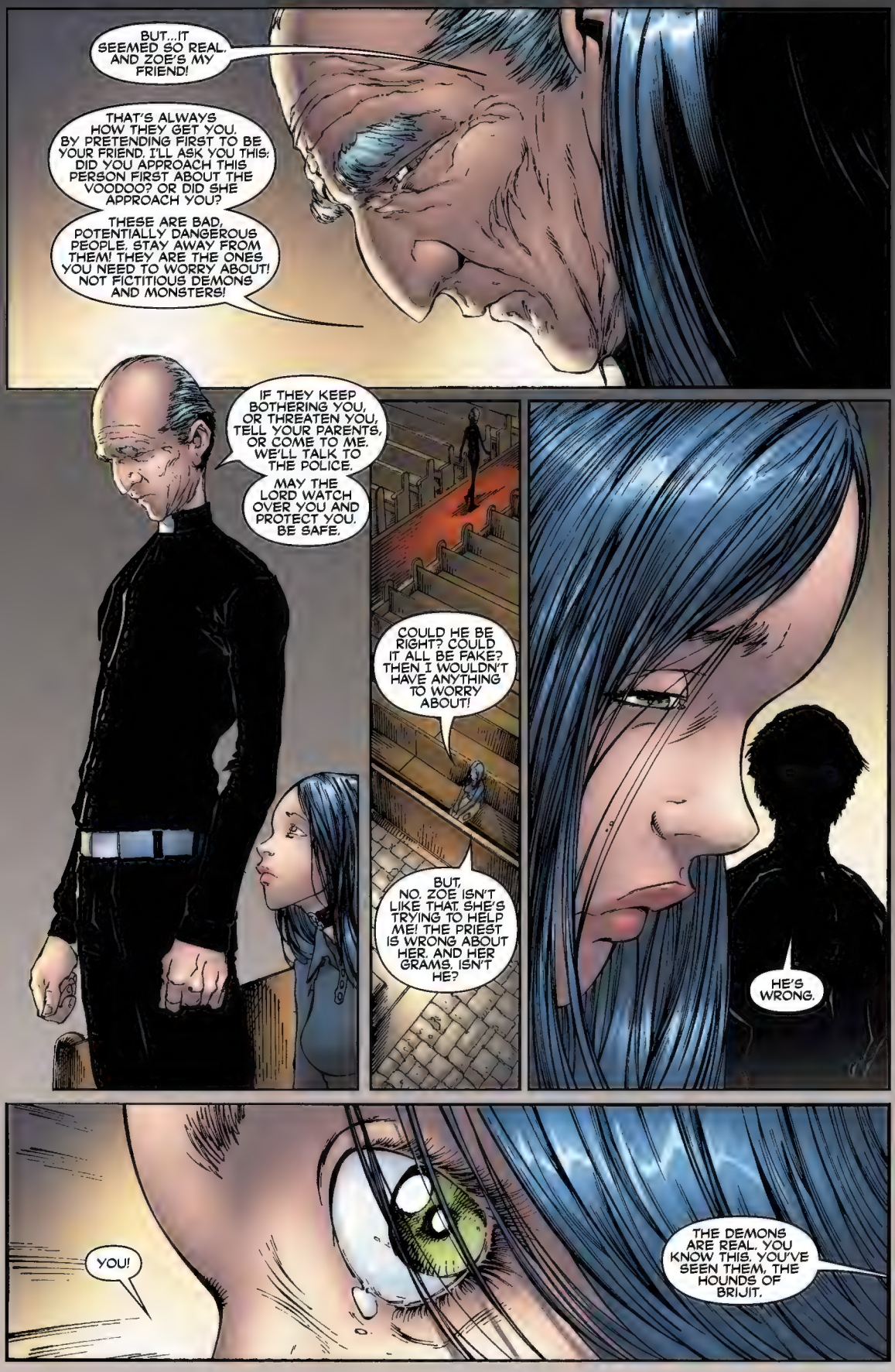
THE OCCULT STORE, MARASA.
I DON'T MEAN TO FRIGHTEN YOU, CHILD...
...BUT THESE INCIDENTS YOU DESCRIBE -- I'M AFRAID YOUR "SWORD DUDE" MAY INDEED HAVE BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH, OR AT LEAST SOME PORTION OF THE TRUTH, AS HE SEES IT.
WE MUST FIND THIS WRAITHBORN OBJECT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
BUT HOW? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
HAVE YOU VISITED ANYPLACE SPECIAL, OUTSIDE YOUR NORMAL ROUTINE? PURCHASED ANYTHING UNUSUAL? MAYBE FROM A SWAP MEET OR ANTIQUES STORE?
NO, NOTHING...
ANY ODD DREAMS OR NIGHTMARES? ANY STRANGE SENSATIONS, DÉJÀ VU, MEMORY LAPSES?
NO, NO-- WELL, ACTUALLY...
I HAD A NIGHTMARE YESTERDAY, ABOUT THE CEMETERY. BUT IT WAS PROBABLY JUST BECAUSE I HAD GONE THERE THE NIGHT BEFORE...
MEMORY LAPSES...I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT! I REMEMBER GOING TO VISIT MOMMA'S RESTING PLACE, BUT THAT'S IT. THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER IS WAKING UP FROM THAT NIGHTMARE!
THE CEMETERY, BRIJIT'S PLAYGROUND. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT'S WHERE IT OCCURRED, WHERE YOU OBTAINED THIS WRAITHBORN.
BRING ME EVERYTHING YOU WORE THAT NIGHT, EVERYTHING YOU CARRIED.
WE'LL PERFORM A READING AND SEE WHAT WE CAN SEE.
OOOH, I HOPE SHE LETS ME HELP WITH THE READING! SHE SAYS I HAVE A REAL TALENT FOR THAT SORT OF THING. IT'S JUST LIKE READING THE TAROT, YOU TRY AND SENSE THE ENERGY YOU GET FROM THE CARDS, ONLY THIS TIME IT'LL BE WITH OTHER OBJECTS, LIKE CLOTHES AND STUFF.
DON'T WORRY, MELANIE! EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY. GRAMS IS ON IT! YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU TO GET EVERYTHING?
NO, NO... I'LL BE OKAY.
ALRIGHTY! I'LL GO HELP GRAMS PREPARE FOR THE READING. SEE YA SOON, CHER!


SO I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL TONIGHT, YA?
DANG I'M GOOD!
SCORED ME HER DIGITS, JUST LIKE DAT! I AM SO SLAYIN' IT!
AIN'T NO HONEY CAN RESIST MY MOVES!
DUDE, ONLY WAY YA'LL EVER GET LAID'S IF YA CRAWL UP A CHICKEN'S BUTT AND WAIT.
HA HA HA HA HA
I'M SO LUCKY I'M FRIENDS WITH ZOE! HER GRAMS SEEMS REAL SMART. SHE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT I SHOULD DO.
Y'ALL JUST JEALOUS O' MY MAD SKILLS!
NOW AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS ALONE!
BET YA FIVE DOLLA' YA CAN'T SCORE HER DIGITS.
HA, TOO EASY!
WATCH 'N' LEARN, BOYS...
HEY DERE, SUGAH PIE, WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?
DIS SEAT TAKEN?
?!

'CUZ I... AAAHHH!
OOOMPH!
WAK
AH AH AH AH
SNAP
AAAAAHHHHH!!!
KRAK
OMIGOD, OMIGOD...
YO, MAN, YOU GOT SERVED.
I...I DIDN'T...
HA HA HA HA
DUDE, YA OWE ME FIVE...
UNGHH... MY ARM...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
NO, NO. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT HIM LIKE THAT!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO HURT SOMEONE LIKE THAT!
IT...IT WASN'T ME... IT...IT WAS...

AAAHHHH!
LEAVE ME...

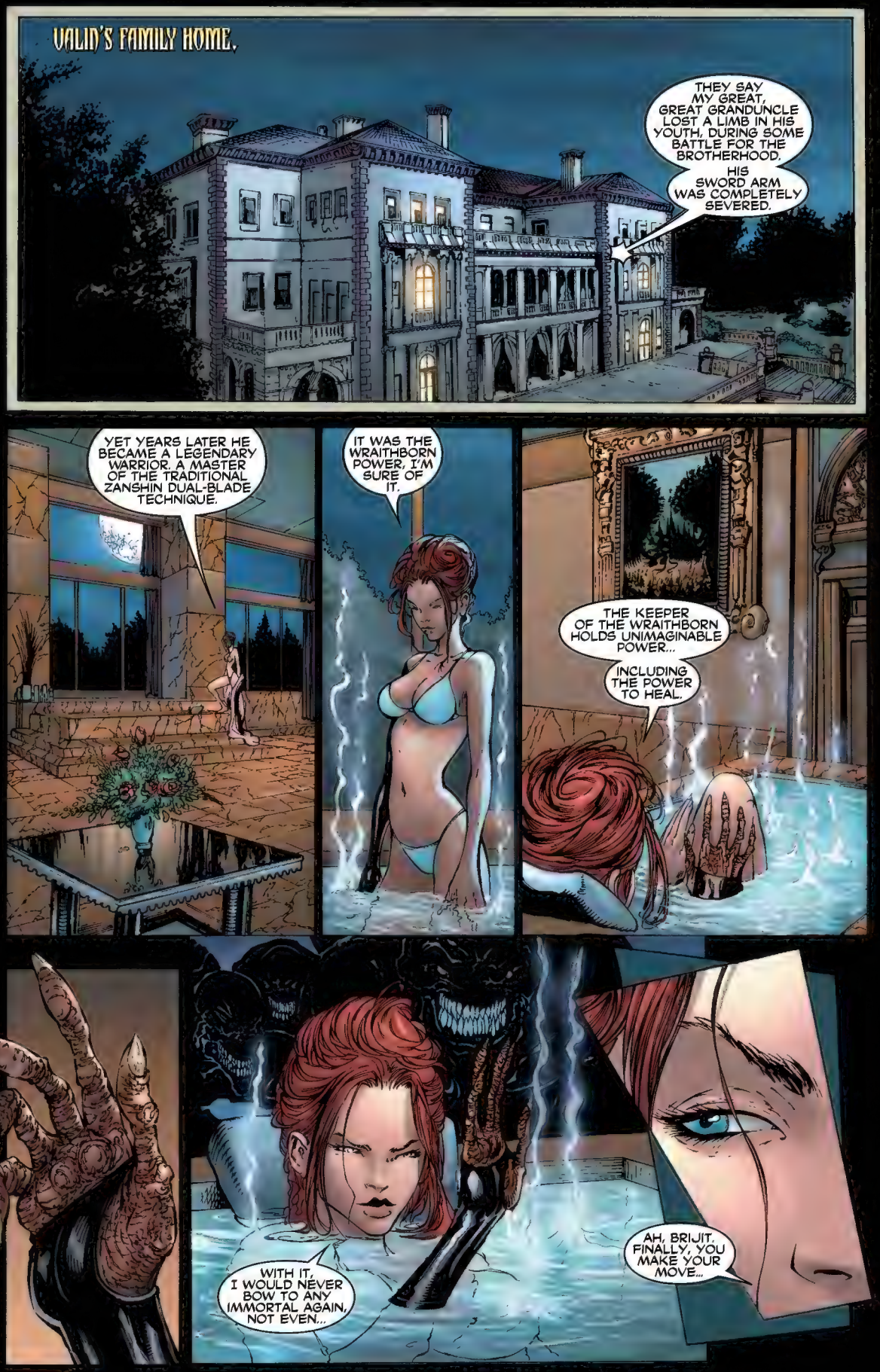

ALONE!
ALONE!
ALONE!
--ALONE!!!
IS... SOMETHING THE MATTER, MISS?
HUH? OH, UM, NO... I MEAN, YES! I MEAN...
COME. TELL ME WHAT TROUBLES YOU.
I...THERE WAS...DO YOU BELIEVE IN...IN DEMONS?
DEMONS? WELL, CERTAINLY WE EACH OF US HAVE OUR OWN DEMONS WE MUST LEARN TO FACE...
NO, NO! I MEAN REAL DEMONS! LIKE VOODOO MONSTERS!
AH, VOODOO. HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INVOLVED IN SOMETHING...BAD... AND NOW YOU WANT TO GET OUT BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW?
I DIDN'T GET MYSELF INVOLVED IN ANYTHING! IT INVOLVED ME!
OF COURSE IT DID! NO SANE PERSON WOULD GO OUT INTENTIONALLY SEEKING EVIL!
THESE CULTISTS SEARCH FOR YOUNG IMPRESSIONABLE PERSONS, GOOD PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF, AND MANIPULATE YOU INTO BELIEVING THEIR LIES.
THEY MAKE YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN CURSED BY SOME VOODOO SPELL OR DOLL OR FETISH OBJECT AND THAT YOU NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME KIND OF RITUAL OR SOMETHING TO CLEANSE YOURSELF--
--AT WHICH POINT THEY OFTEN ASK FOR MONEY, THOUGH NOT ALWAYS. SOMETIMES THEY JUST WANT TO TRICK YOU INTO JOINING THEM IN THEIR DEVIANT RITES.
AND THEY'LL TELL YOU IF YOU DON'T DO EXACTLY AS THEY SAY, DEMONS WILL RISE UP FROM HELL AND COME AFTER YOUR SOUL.
DOES THIS SOUND AT ALL FAMILIAR?
WELL, ACTUALLY...YEAH, KIND OF, BUT I SAW THE MONSTERS! THEY'RE REAL!
NO, NO. THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY GOOD AT WHAT THEY DO. THEY PERFORM ELABORATE HOAXES TO FAKE "MAGIC" OR "PSYCHIC" ABILITIES. AND THEY AREN'T ABOVE USING HERBS AND DRUGS TO AMPLIFY THE POWER OF SUGGESTION. MAKING YOU SEE THINGS THAT AREN'T REAL OR DO THINGS THAT YOU WOULDN'T NORMALLY DO.


BUT...IT SEEMED SO REAL. AND ZOE'S MY FRIEND!
THAT'S ALWAYS HOW THEY GET YOU. BY PRETENDING FIRST TO BE YOUR FRIEND. I'LL ASK YOU THIS: DID YOU APPROACH THIS PERSON FIRST ABOUT THE VOODOO? OR DID SHE APPROACH YOU?
THESE ARE BAD, POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS PEOPLE. STAY AWAY FROM THEM! THEY ARE THE ONES YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT! NOT FICTITIOUS DEMONS AND MONSTERS!
IF THEY KEEP BOTHERING YOU, OR THREATEN YOU, TELL YOUR PARENTS, OR COME TO ME. WE'LL TALK TO THE POLICE.
MAY THE LORD WATCH OVER YOU AND PROTECT YOU. BE SAFE.
COULD HE BE RIGHT? COULD IT ALL BE FAKE? THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
BUT, NO. ZOE ISN'T LIKE THAT. SHE'S TRYING TO HELP ME! THE PRIEST IS WRONG ABOUT HER. AND HER GRAMS. ISN'T HE?
HE'S WRONG.
YOU!
THE DEMONS ARE REAL. YOU KNOW THIS. YOU'VE SEEN THEM, THE HOUNDS OF BRIJIT.

THEY WILL COME AFTER YOU AGAIN. AS LONG AS YOU BEAR THE WRAITHBORN.
SO TAKE IT! I DON'T WANT IT! JUST TELL ME WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE AND I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!
WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE? THE WRAITHBORN IS NOT AN OBJECT. IT IS A... A FORCE WHICH HAS BEEN LINKED TO YOU, TO YOUR PHYSICAL FORM.
BUT... THEN HOW DO I GET RID OF IT?
THE BROTHERHOOD, THE ORDER TO WHICH I BELONG, THEY CAN HELP. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO TRANSFER THE POWER FROM YOU TO ME.
BROTHERHOOD? IS THAT SOME KIND OF CULT?
MORE LIKE... MONKS, IF YOU WILL. WARRIOR-MONKS, AN ORDER SWORN TO PROTECT HUMANKIND FROM THESE DEMONIC CREATURES.
TRUST ME. THEY WILL HELP YOU.
BUT YOU MUST COME WITH ME, TO OUR TEMPLE. THERE, THE ELDERS WILL REMOVE THE WRAITHBORN, AND THE DEMONS WILL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN.
WILL... WILL IT HURT?
NO. IT IS MERELY A RITUAL. AEGEUS, THE FORMER KEEPER, PRESUMABLY PERFORMED IT WHEN HE PASSED THE POWER TO YOU.
WHY DID HE DO THAT? WHY DID HE GIVE IT TO ME?
AND WHY CAN'T YOU JUST PERFORM THIS RITUAL HERE? WHY DO I HAVE TO GO WITH YOU TO THIS TEMPLE PLACE?
I DO NOT KNOW WHY AEGEUS GAVE YOU THE POWER, BUT I AM CERTAIN HE WOULD NOT HAVE DONE SO UNLESS HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.
HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN GREAT DANGER.
THE...THE HOUNDS?

THE HOUNDS WOULD HAVE POSED NO THREAT TO AEGEUS, NOT WITH THE WRAITHBORN POWER.
NO, IT HAD TO BE SOMETHING WORSE. POSSIBLY BRIJIT HERSELF.
THUMP
WHAT WAS THAT?
AND THE REASON WE CANNOT PERFORM THE TRANSFERENCE RITUAL HERE IS BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW IT.
ONLY THE ELDERS AND THE--
THE HOUNDS! THEY'VE FOUND US!
GET BACK!
KRASH
THAT... THAT'S NOT A HOUND!
NO...
SOMETHING WORSE...

GARRR...
WRAITHBORN!


VALIN'S FAMILY HOME.
THEY SAY MY GREAT, GREAT GRANDUNCLE LOST A LIMB IN HIS YOUTH, DURING SOME BATTLE FOR THE BROTHERHOOD.
HIS SWORD ARM WAS COMPLETELY SEVERED.
YET YEARS LATER HE BECAME A LEGENDARY WARRIOR. A MASTER OF THE TRADITIONAL ZANSHIN DUAL-BLADE TECHNIQUE.
IT WAS THE WRAITHBORN POWER, I'M SURE OF IT.
THE KEEPER OF THE WRAITHBORN HOLDS UNIMAGINABLE POWER...
INCLUDING THE POWER TO HEAL.
WITH IT, I WOULD NEVER BOW TO ANY IMMORTAL AGAIN, NOT EVEN...
AH, BRIJIT. FINALLY, YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE...

ST. MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC CHURCH.
GRR-AR... WRAITHBORN!
WRAITHBORN!
IT...IT CAN SPEAK?! WHAT IS IT?!
WRAITHBORN!
BUT MADE FROM LIVING FLESH, UNLIKE THE HOUNDS, WHICH ARE MADE FROM CORPSES AND THEREFORE EASIER TO DESTROY.
ONE OF BRIJIT'S CONSTRUCTS.
=GASP!=
SKRASH

SKRASH SKRASH SKRASH
CAN... CAN YOU STOP IT?
I WILL TRY.
RUN!
IF THIS IS THE CREATURE THAT AMBUSHED AEGEUS...
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEAT IT.
SNK
SNK
SNK
GRRRR
SHNK
UPNOH...
THUMP
SHNK

KRUNCH
PERHAPS YOU ARE NOT THE ONE WHO THREATENED AEGEUS AFTER ALL.
SHNK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
WHAT...?
GRRR... WRAITH... BORN...
FWATHOOM
GRRAR... WRAAAITH
DID... DID YOU KILL IT?

NO. I DO NOT BELIEVE IT CAN BE KILLED.
WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT CAN'T BE KILLED?!
BRIJIT HAS IMBUED IT WITH SOME MAGIC THAT CIRCUMVENTS DEATH BY ORDINARY MEANS.
BUT... BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?!
COME.
WE MUST GET AWAY BEFORE IT MANAGES TO FREE ITSELF.
GRRRR!
THROMMK
MY GOD! MY GOD!
WHAT THE...?
GGRRRRAAAITHBORN!

THIS WRAITHBORN THING IS SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME SPECIAL POWERS, RIGHT? SO WHAT KIND OF POWERS DO I HAVE? IS THERE SOMETHING THAT CAN STOP THAT... THAT THING?
I DO NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN. EVERYTHING ABOUT THE WRAITHBORN IS KEPT A SECRET UNTIL THE APPRENTICESHIP.
AND IT REQUIRES YEARS OF TRAINING TO LEARN HOW TO WIELD THE POWER.
WRAITHBORN!
GET DOWN!
AAHHH!
GRRR

RUN! HIDE IN THE CROWD!
I WILL TRY TO DETAIN IT!
THUMP
RRRIP
THWAK
SHRACK
UNGH!
THUMP
HRAH!
SHHNKT

THMP
GO! GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!
WHAT WAS THAT?
IS IT A SHOW?
THAT WAS SOOO FAKE!
BUT...BUT IT'S DEAD... YOU--
ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU NEED--?
WHAT...ARE YOU...STILL DOING HERE? I TOLD YOU... TO RUN!
RUN!
SWAK
AAAAHHHH!
UNGH...

GET OUT OF THE WAY!
WHAT IS THAT THING?!
MOVE!
HOT DOG
BURGER
FRIES
ONION RINGS
SODA
BEER
OMIGOD OMIGOD OMIGOD OMIGOD...
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO!
WHAT--?
THMP
WRAITHBORN!
OH NO...
AAAHHH!

NOOOO... NO!
LET ME GO! LET ME GO! LET ME GO! LET ME...
GOOOOO!
FWOOOSH
HOW...?
BOOOOORRNNN...
HUH?

ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?
UNGH... I...I'M...I'LL BE...FINE...
WE GOTTA GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL!
NO...NO HOSPITALS. TOO MANY... QUESTIONS... I JUST NEED...NEED... URGHH...
BUT...
NO... HOSPITALS!
OKAY, OKAY! I... I THINK I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP...
BEHIND MARASA
ZOE! MISS ODETTE! HELP!
MELANIE?
WE WERE ATTACKED! BY SOME KIND OF DEMON!
THIS IS THE SWORD DUDE...I THINK HE CALLED HIMSELF VALIN. HE GOT HURT SAVING ME!
HERE, HERE. LET ME HELP.
COME ON NOW, STAY WITH ME. JUST A LITTLE FURTHER.
SO THAT'S YOUR CRAZY SWORD DUDE? HE LOOKS PRETTY BAD.
IS HE...IS HE GONNA BE OKAY?
GRAMS'LL PATCH HIM UP. DON'T WORRY.
WE GOT EVERYTHING READY FOR THE READING AND ALL, AND WE WERE JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO GET BACK WITH YOUR CLOTHES AND STUFF BUT...
WHOOSH
...WELL, YOU BROUGHT BACK WHAT'S-HIS-NAME INSTEAD. DID YOU GET ATTACKED ON THE WAY HOME? WHAT HAPPENED? WAS IT THE HOUNDS AGAIN?
MELANIE?

HELP!
MELANIE!
TO BE CONCLUDED!

FROM THE CREATOR OF LADY MECHANIKA

WRAITHBORN

REDUX

ISSUE SIX

AUGUST 2016

FROM THE CREATOR OF LADY MECHANIKA
WRATHBORN
REDUX
ISSUE SIX
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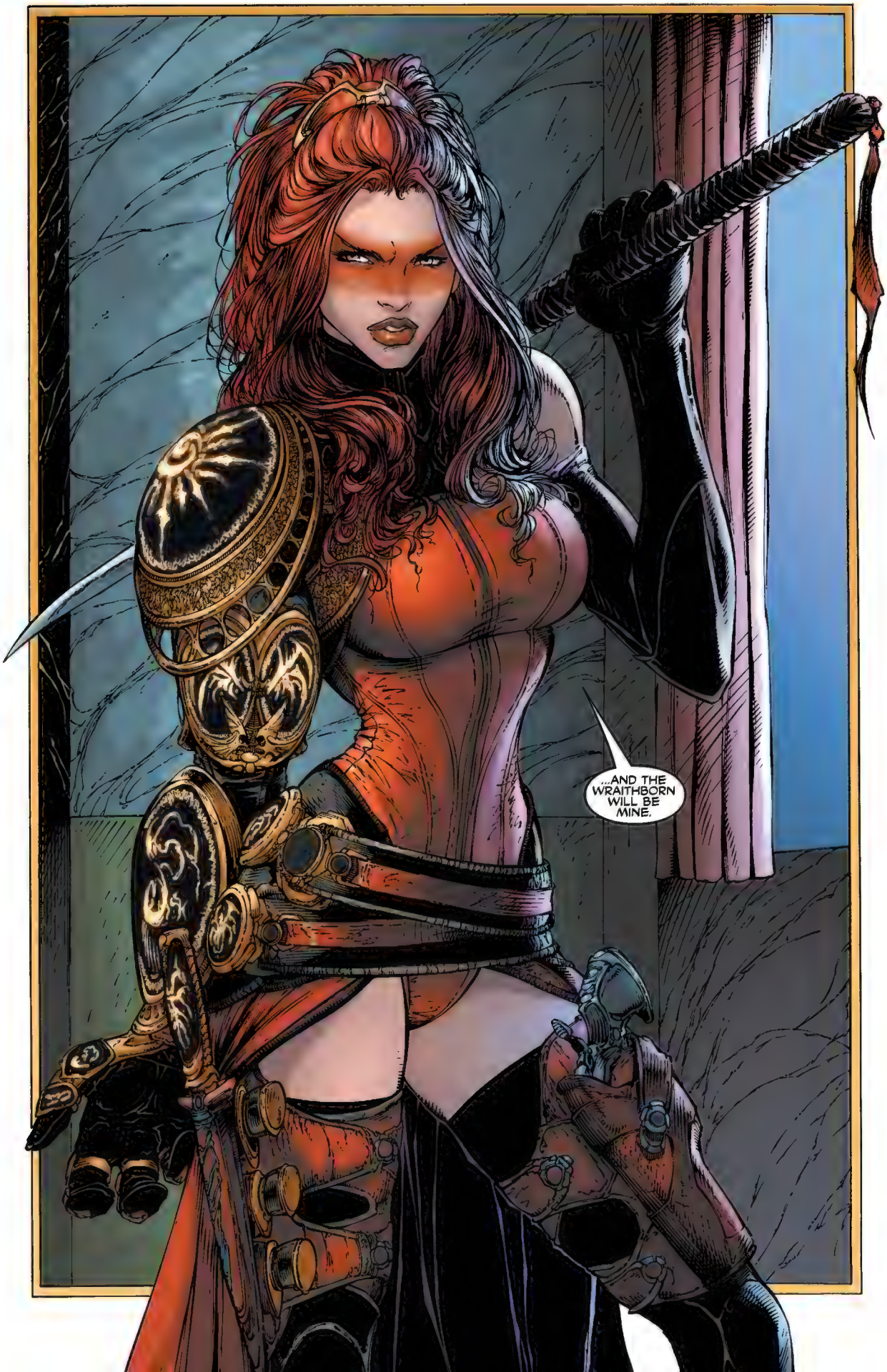
KIARA'S HOME.
ONLY HOUNDS, BRIJIT?
SHUNK
I'M INSULTED.
AH, BUT YOU MUST BE FEELING RATHER DRAINED BY NOW, NO?
HEALING SERVANTS AND CREATING MINIONS TAKING A TOLL?
ZZZIP
TIME FOR THE FINAL ACT, BRIJIT.
THE STAGE IS SET.
THE PLAYERS IN POSITION.
BY THE END OF THE NIGHT, YOU'LL BE OUT OF THE WAY...


...AND THE WRAITHBORN WILL BE MINE.

BEHIND MARASA.
GRAMS! GRAMS!
THEY'RE TAKING HER AWAY! THEY'RE TAKING MELANIE!
WE WERE RIGHT BEHIND YOU ON OUR WAY UP AND SHE WAS STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO ME TELLING ME ABOUT THE SWORD GUY AND THEN, SWOOSH! SHE WAS GONE!
WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING, GRAMS! WE GOTTA SAVE MELANIE! BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?
SO I RAN OUT AND SAW THOSE CREEPY MONSTER THINGS FLYING OFF AND ONE OF THEM HAD MELANIE IN ITS CLAWS!
OH, AND SOMEONE WAS RIDING ONE OF THE MONSTERS--A WOMAN, I THINK IT MIGHT'VE BEEN BRIJIT!
THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN DO, SOMETHING YOU CAN DO, ZOE.
COME.

ABOVE MARASA.
PREPARE FOR THE READING.
I'LL HELP THIS YOUNG MAN--VALIN, I THINK SHE CALLED HIM.
IS HE OKAY?
HE'S UNCONSCIOUS NOW.
BUT I'VE CLEANSED THE WOUND AND APPLIED A POULTICE TO STOP THE BLEEDING. HE'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS HE STAYS STILL AND RESTS THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
OKAY. I'M READY.
CLEAR YOUR MIND OF ALL THOUGHTS. FOCUS ON MELANIE'S NECKLACE. ABSORB ITS ENERGIES.
LET THE VISIONS COME TO YOU.
"I CAN SEE..."
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HONEY! DO YOU LIKE IT?
MM... MOMMA?
PAPA, IT'S OKAY! I DIDN'T HIT ANYTHING!
"SHIFT THROUGH THE IMAGES. LOOK FOR SOMETHING RECENT. SOMETHING UNUSUAL."

"AAAAAAAHHHH!"
"ZOE! ZOE! WHAT IS IT? COME BACK!
"REMEMBER, NOTHING CAN HURT YOU THERE! YOU'RE JUST AN OBSERVER!"
GRRRR
"IT'S...IT'S OKAY. I WAS JUST STARTLED. MONSTERS. ICKY MONSTER THINGS EVERYWHERE! ARE THESE THE HOUNDS MELANIE WAS TALKING ABOUT? THEY ARE SERIOUSLY YUCKY!"
"THEY'RE ATTACKING SOME GUY, A BIG MUSCLED DUDE WITH ALL SORTS OF WEIRD ARMOR, KINDA LIKE MELANIE'S FRIEND, VALIN.

"THERE'S A LOT OF THEM. LOTS AND LOTS OF HOUNDS.
SHUNK
SHNKT
SHNK
GGRRRR
AARGGHH...
"THEY KEEP COMING, BUT THE MUSCLE GUY FIGHTS THEM ALL OFF.
SHCHUNK
"HE'S KILLED THE LAST ONE, BUT HE'S LOOKING PRETTY BAD TOO.

"I THINK HE WAS ALREADY HURT BEFORE THE HOUNDS GANGED UP ON HIM. HE WAS ALL COUGHING BLOOD AND STUFF. NOW HE CAN BARELY STAND.
"I DON'T THINK HE'S GONNA MAKE IT."
"STAY WITH IT. HE MUST BE THE WARRIOR WHO GAVE MELANIE THE WRAITHBORN RELIC.
"IF HE WAS INDEED DYING, HE'D BE DESPERATE TO FIND SOME WAY TO SAVE THE RELIC. MELANIE WOULD'VE BEEN HIS ONLY CHOICE."
"I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, GRAMS.
"HE SEES HER. HE SEES MELANIE!"
"SLOW IT DOWN NOW. WE NEED TO SEE HIM PASS HER THE WRAITHBORN. PERHAPS IF WE CAN FIND THE RELIC, WE CAN USE IT TO SAVE MELANIE."
"IT'S A DAGGER! HE'S HOLDING A FANCY-LOOKING DAGGER-- AND IT'S GLOWING!
"THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE WRAITHBORN THING! WE HAVE TO FIND--

"GASP!"
"WHAT DO YOU SEE?"
"HE...HE SLIT HIS OWN THROAT! WITH THE DAGGER!
"THE MAGIC, THE POWER FLOATS OUT OF HIM AND GOES INTO MELANIE.
"THERE ISN'T ANY RELIC AT ALL, GRAMS! THE POWER IS INSIDE HER!"
"ARE YOU CERTAIN?"
"YES! THE POWER IS INSIDE MELANIE!"
"THEN BRIJIT ALREADY HAS THE WRAITHBORN IN HER POSSESSION."
"BUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MELANIE?"

MARIDETTE CEMETERY.
I HAVE IT... I HAVE IT!
THE WRAITHBORN IS MINE!
CAREFUL, BRIJEEET! CAAAREFULLL! WRAITHBORN, DAANGEROUSSS!
I MASTERED THE MAGICS OF THIS WORLD LONG, LONG AGO, KALFU.
THE WRAITHBORN POWER WILL BE MINE TO COMMAND, AND I WILL USE IT TO UNLOCK THE BINDINGS THAT HAVE KEPT ME IMPRISONED FOR SO MANY AGES.
FINALLY, I WILL BE FREE!
AAAALL WILL BE FREEEEE!
YES! YES, WE WILL ALL BE SET FREE.
MAÎTRESSE!
IT IS HERE.

BIND THE GIRL AND BRING HER BELOW.
YOU, PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE RITUAL. YOU WILL SERVE AS MY CONDUIT FOR THE WRAITHBORN POWER.
~YES, MAITRESSE.
WHAT ABOUT ME? BETHANY GOT TO BE A GODDESS, AND NOW JENNIE'S GETTING THE WRAITHBORN. HOW COME I DON'T GET ANY SPECIAL POWERS OR ANYTHING?
DO NOT FRET, CHILD. I HAVE SOMETHING PLANNED FOR YOU AS WELL.
THE CEMETERY!
THE CEMETERY! THEY TOOK HER TO THE CEMETERY!
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING WE--
HEY, WHERE'D THE SWORD DUDE GO?
VALIN? HE WAS HERE JUST A MINUTE AGO.
HE MUST'VE GONE TO RESCUE MELANIE!
MAY THE GODS PROTECT HIM.

MARIDETTE CEMETERY.
SO AEGEUS IS DEAD, IF THE SEER GIRL'S VISION WAS TRUE.
I FEARED AS MUCH.
SHINK
THUNK
THE WRAITHBORN POWER WILL PROTECT ITS HOST FROM ALL CORPOREAL THREATS.
BUT BRIJIT STILL FOUND SOME WAY TO MORTALLY WOUND AEGEUS.
IT IS FORTUNATE HE MANAGED TO TRANSFER THE POWER TO THE CHILD MELANIE BEFORE HE EXPIRED.

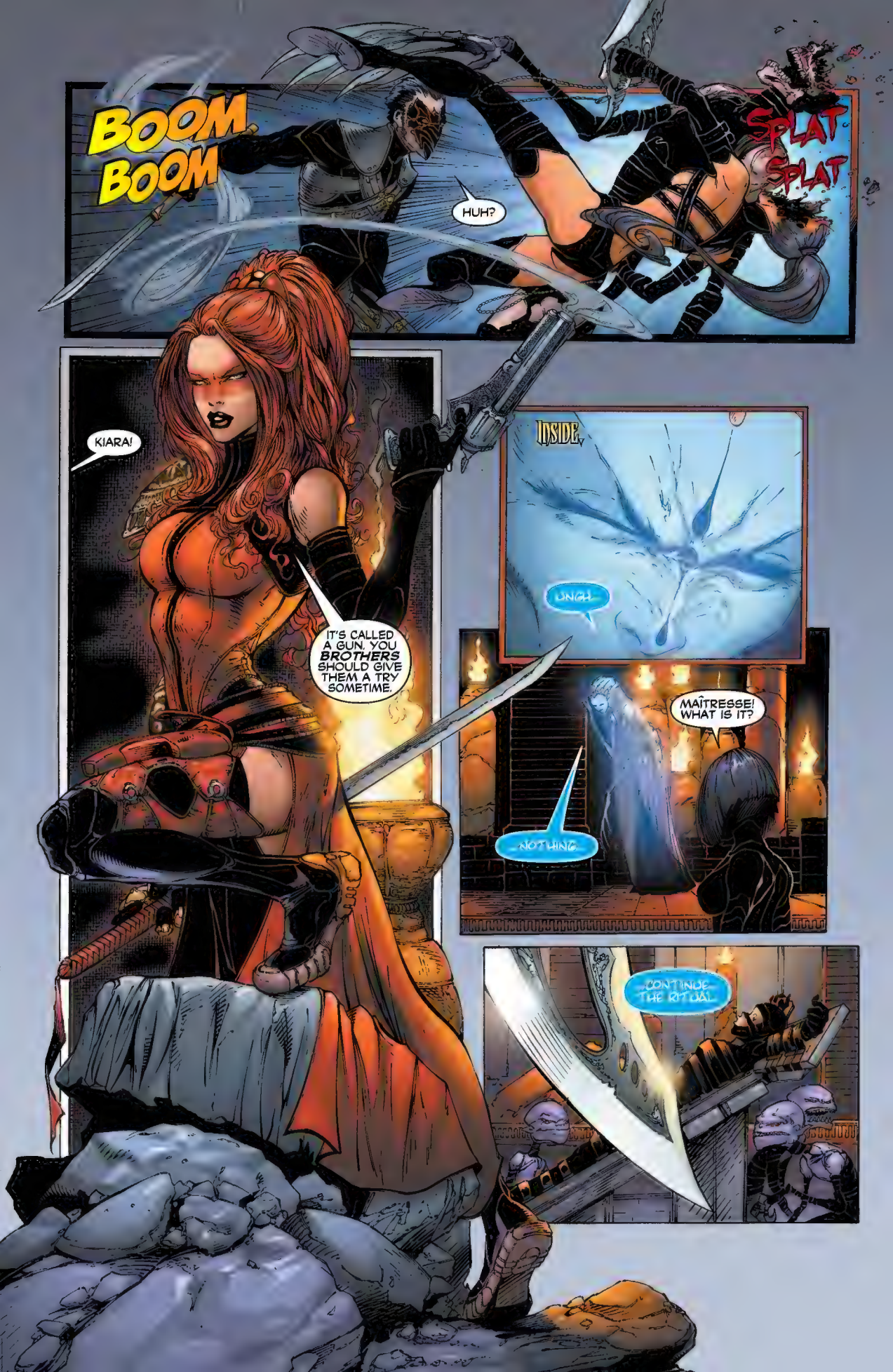
AEGEUS GAVE HIS LIFE TO PREVENT BRIJIT FROM TAKING THE WRAITHBORN.
I WILL NOT LET HIS SACRIFICE BE IN VAIN.

BRIJIT'S LAIR
NO! NO! PLEASE! WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME!
YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT I NEED. SOMETHING THAT CAN DESTROY US... OR IT CAN SET US FREE. THE WRAITHBORN.
YOU CAN HAVE IT! I DON'T WANT IT! I GOT IT BY ACCIDENT! I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT OR YOU OR ANYTHING! PLEASE... JUST TELL ME HOW I CAN PASS IT TO YOU!
THE WRAITHBORN RESIDES WITHIN YOU. YOU ARE IT'S HOST.
I WILL REMOVE IT FROM YOU, AND THEN YOU CAN REST.
YOU... YOU'LL LET ME GO?
IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON. YOU WON'T FEEL A THING.
KRASH
SNKT
THUNK
TAKE CARE OF IT. THERE MUST BE NO INTERRUPTIONS.

YES, MAITRESSE.

OUTSIDE BRIJIT'S LAIR.
IF BRIJIT GAINS CONTROL OF THE WRAITHBORN, SHE WILL USE IT TO FREE HERSELF AND ENTER OUR WORLD IN HER TRUE FORM.
THESE CONSTRUCTS ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE MAGIC THE REAL BRIJIT CAN WIELD.
SHUNK
UNGH... SIDE'S STARTING TO BLEED AGAIN...
CAN'T LET IT SLOW ME DOWN...I HAVE TO STOP BRIJIT BEFORE IT'S TOO--

HYAAA!
INSIDE.
TAKE THIS DAGGER AND SLIDE IT ACROSS THE MORTAL'S THROAT
ONCE THE GIRL IS DEAD, THE MAGIC WILL FLOW INTO YOU, AND YOU WILL BECOME THE NEW WRAITHBORN.
I...I HAVE TO KILL HER? BUT...I NEVER WANTED TO KILL ANY--
KILL THE GIRL.
YES, MAITRESSE.
WHA--?
NOOOOOO!
OUTSIDE.
MELANIE!
GRRRRAAAH
THWAK!
AAARGH!
FINISH HIM!


BOOM
BOOM
HUH?
SPLAT
SPLAT
KIARA!
IT'S CALLED A GUN, YOU BROTHERS SHOULD GIVE THEM A TRY SOMETIME.
INSIDE
UNGH
MAÎTRESSE! WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING
CONTINUE THE RITUAL

OUTSIDE.

YOU CAN'T KILL AN IMMORTAL WITH A GUN.

YOU SEE ANY IMMORTALS IN HERE, *BROTHER?* I JUST SEE LOWLY MINIONS!

AND EVEN AN IMMORTAL WILL HAVE TROUBLE HEALING A MINION BLOWN INTO A BILLION BITS.

GO GET BRIJIT!

I'LL KEEP HER MAGIC BUSY...

AHHHH

GRRRR

KRAA

AAUUGH

INSIDE
NO! NO! PLEASE...YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS... PLEASE!
ACTUALLY, I DO. THE MAÎTRESSE... IT TOOK THREE TO SUMMON HER. THREE OF US MADE THE BARGAIN. NOW OUR LIVES ARE BOUND TO HER. SHE CAN CONTROL MY EVERY MOVE.
WSHH WSHH WSHH
JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES. YOU WON'T FEEL A THING. I PROM--
--MISSSSS...
SHNK
MELANIE!
STOP!
V...VALIN?
THUMP
YOU WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH--

WHAT...?
AAAGHH...
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
KIARA!
UNGH...
YOU DISAPPOINT ME.
I MAY BE BOUND, BUT I AM NOT BLIND. DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU COULD USE ME TO OBTAIN THE WRAITHBORN FOR YOURSELF?
I SERVE NO MORTAL, KIARA. YOU SERVE ME.
YOUR PAST DEEDS EARNED YOU A WARNING. YOU CHOSE NOT TO HEED IT.
NOW YOU AND YOUR FRIEND...
...WILL DIE.
HERE, TAKE THIS AND RUN! GET OUT OF HERE!
I... I...
DO NOT BE AFRAID! THE WRAITHBORN WILL PROTECT YOU!
THESE CREATURES CANNOT HURT YOU. YOU CAN HURT THEM.
IF YOU ENCOUNTER ANY TROUBLE, TRUST IN THE WRAITHBORN. IT WILL KEEP YOU SAFE. NOW--
KRATHUNK
...GOOOOOOOO...
WHOOOSH

AAHHHHH!
KRAK
KRAK
AAARRGHH!
KRIK
KRUCH
OH, NO...
WILL YOU LET...YOUR BEST FRIENDS...DIE... BETHANY?
YOU KNOW YOU FEEL IT. YOU'RE LINKED TO THEM NOW. YOU FELT THEIR PAIN. YOU CAN FEEL THEIR SPIRITS GETTING DIMMER AND DIMMER BY THE SECOND.
IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO PLAY AT WITCHERY, BETHANY. YOUR IDEA TO SUMMON A GOD.
WILL YOU LET THEM PAY THE PRICE?
YOU'D BETTER HURRY, OR THE DAMAGE WILL BE PERMANENT!
I WILL HEAL!
KLIK
NOOOOO!!
HHH... HHHEEEELP...
NO BRIJEEET! NOOOOOO!
THE MAGIC! THE MAGIC! YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL OF THE MAAAAGIC!
NO

AAAHHHH!
KRUNCH
THIS BODY IS MINE NOW.
THE OTHERS ARE...
...NOTHING.
AAIEEE!
AAARGHH...
AS FOR YOU, KIARA...
AAAHHH!
I...CAN STILL...HELP YOU... BRIJIT! YOU CAN'T... CONFRONT... THE WRAITHBORN... YOURSELF! YOU CAN'T RISK IT!
YOU NEED MY HELP!
YES, YOU WILL SERVE FOR NOW.
KRAK
YOU WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT ENFORCER, ONCE I'VE REMOVED YOUR MIND.
THIS ONE, HOWEVER I HAVE NO USE FOR.
KRIK
KRAK KRAK
UNGH...
VALIN...

KRUNCH
KRAK
KRUNCH
AH...AH... AH...
OH NO...
AAAHHHH!
OH NO OH NO OH NO! I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. SHE'S KILLING HIM!
BUT WHAT CAN I DO? I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THE POWERS WORK!
I CAN'T JUST LET HIM DIE! HE SAVED MY LIFE! THREE TIMES!
OH...BUT SHE'S GONNA KILL ME!
NO! I HAVE TO HELP HIM! GO! DON'T THINK! JUST DO IT!
AAAAHHH!
AAAAHHH!
WHA—?

NOOOOOOOO!
AAAAHHH!
SHUNK
BRIJEEEEEEET...
AAAAHHH!
WRAITHBORN...
UH...
UNNGH...
KIARA! THE HOST! DESTROY...THE HOST!
HURRY! BEFORE...BRIJIT... CAN RETURN!

I KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
BETHANY, BETHANY... DON'T YOU KNOW PLAYING WITH MAGIC HAS ITS PRICE?
WHA...WHA... KIARA?
NEVER BARGAIN WITH A GOD. YOU CAN'T TRUST GODS.
BUT...BUT... BUT YOU TOLD US TO! YOU GAVE US THE SPELL, THE COMPONENTS, THE ARTIFACTS! YOU TAUGHT US HOW TO SUMMON BRIJIT!
OH? GUESS YOU SHOULDN'T TRUST ME EITHER.
WHAT ARE YOU...?
NO! NO! AAAAAHH--
CHUNK!
BYE, BETHANY.
MEL... MELANIE?

WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED? BRIJIT?
IT'S OKAY. BRIJIT'S GONE. YOU SAVED US.
I...I DID? BUT WHO...?
I'M KIARA. VALIN'S SISTER.
YOU'RE A VERY BRAVE GIRL, MELANIE. DON'T WORRY.
I'LL HELP YOU NOW. I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.
COME ON. LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
IT'S REALLY OVER? I'M SAFE?
FOR NOW, YES. AND ONCE WE TRANSFER THE WRAITHBORN, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THESE CREATURES AGAIN.
YOUR LIFE WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL.
THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF THE STORY.

EPILOGUE
A QUICK TRIP TO SOME MYSTICAL TEMPLE FOR A SIMPLE TRANSFERENCE RITUAL AND VOILÀ.
ALL'S RIGHT WITH THE WORLD.
VALIN SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE WRAITHBORN AND GONE ON TO FULFILL HIS HEROIC DESTINY.
I SHOULD HAVE GONE BACK TO MARINETTE, GOTTEN PICKED ON SOME MORE BY THE COOL KIDS, MAYBE GO TO PROM, HEAD OFF TO COLLEGE...AND LIVE OUT THE REST OF MY BLISSFULLY MUNDANE LIFE.
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
BUT IT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE.
NO. IT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING.
THE BEGINNING, AS WELL AS...
...THE END.

WRAITHBORN
AN EPIC URBAN FANTASY
BY JOE BENITEZ
Demons walk among us, fettered and unseen, but ever struggling to gain a foothold into the material world. A secret brotherhood of warriors guards an arcane power, the *Wraithborn*, the sole weapon which keeps the creatures at bay.
Valin is the young warrior trained from birth to inherit and safeguard the *Wraithborn*. But by chance – or possibly treachery – the power is bestowed instead upon Melanie, a shy high school girl with no knowledge of the supernatural.
Together, the timid untrained teen and the proud but powerless warrior, must find a way to wield the *Wraithborn* and save humanity from enslavement by the demonkind.
Wraithborn Redux is a special revised edition of the original ***Wraithborn*** series published by DC Comics, with new and edited scenes by the series' creators, Marcia Chen (writer) and Joe Benitez (artist).
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